DEMAND III—EXCISE DEPARTMENT.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Acting Excise Commissioner*): I beg to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 5·05 lakhs under Demand III—Excise Department.

Motion 55.

The following motion was not moved :—

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI :

55. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 43,569 under Salaries and Establishment by Rs. 1,440.

Motion 56.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram cum Shencottah*) : Sir, I beg to make the following motion :—

56. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 43,569 under Salaries and Establishment in Salt Factories by Rs. 9,372.

Provision is made for 7 Inspectors, 1 Sub-Inspector, 42 Petty Officers and 136 peons. I submit that the allotment may be reduced by Rs. 9,372 which represent the salary of 1 Inspector and the establishment of 10 Petty Officers and 36 peons. Because of my thorough experience of the working of the Salt Factories for the last ten years I may be trusted when I say that the supervision of the factories may be effected efficiently under the reduced establishment proposed.

I would distribute the Inspectors, Petty Officers and peons in the following manner. Under the present arrangement, we have 7 Inspectors, 1 Sub-Inspector, 42 Petty Officers and 136 peons. After removing 1 Inspector, 10 Petty Officers and 36 peons, I propose to distribute the remaining 6 Inspectors, 1 Sub-Inspector, 32 Petty Officers and 100 peons in the following manner :—

	Inspector.	*Petty Officer.*	*Peons.*
Colachel ...	1	2	4
Rajakamangalam ...	1	3	6
Puttallom and Sri Sankara *allom* ...	1	6	18
Gopalanathan and Krishnamani *allom* ...	1	6	20
Cape Comorin Company and Messrs. Avathanigal's ...	1	6	20
Old *allom* ...	1	4	18
Kumari *allom* ...	...	2	4
Swaminatha Pillai's factory ...	...	...	2
Variyur Sub-Inspector ...	1	1	4
Assistant Commissioner's office ...	...	...	4
6 Inspectors 1 Sub-Inspector ...		30	100

Thus one Inspector, 12 Petty Officers and 36 peons can be made available for work in the northern taluks where the independent shop system is coming into force from Chingam, 1100, onwards.

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I am sure my proposal would be acceptable to the Government, to the Excise Commissioner and also to the learned members of this House. The Excise Commissioner might say that every factory should be provided with one Inspector and I may say in reply that if the Cape Comorin Company Factories and Messrs. Avathanigal's could be managed by one Inspector when the total area of those two factories is 300 acres, one Inspector for the S. M. G. N. and S. M. K. M. *alloms* would be quite sufficient, as the total area of the two factories is only 210 acres and the area of Puttallom and Mr. Krishna Aiyar's factory is below 180 acres and in the light of the fact that Puttallom is not a monopoly factory and the Inspector need not supervise the sale of the licensees.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I second Mr. Karayalar, and I am very glad to do so for the reason that Mr. Karayalar is one of these persons who can authoritatively make a statement in regard to the staff required for the *alloms*. Mr. Karayalar has inherited a certain amount of knowledge with regard to salt manufacture. He has acquired great experience in the business in addition to the liberal education that he has obtained, and he proposes to transmit the experience of his family to the succeeding generations. Therefore, I think Mr. Karayalar would not have made this proposal if it was in any way detrimental to salt manufacture or to the interest of the contractors, because if there is a shortage of hands the first man who suffers is the contractor himself. This is not a motion which requires very much of speaking to support it. There is an impression that the Excise Department is overmanned, and that the number of Inspectors and Petty Officers may be reduced. Even yesterday a friend of mine who knows a good deal about South Travancore—I also claim to know something about South Travancore—told me that so many Inspectors and Petty Officers were not required. He made local inspection and he had a talk with some of the officers themselves and with the contractors, and he used his own powers of observation and came to the conclusion that the staff may be reduced. I am stressing this point at this stage for this purpose. Here is a feeling among us that there are too many officers in the Excise Department and here is a man, the mover of this proposition, who knows all about salt manufacture and who knows the way of the officers, who has gone to South Travancore in connection with the salt business any number of times, coming forward to say that so many Inspectors are not necessary. I would request my friends on the other side to view the situation from all the standpoints and we shall be able to do very much work in case this proposition is not opposed on the other side. It is for that reason that I am explaining this motion.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): Sir, I was also in charge of the Salt Factories for a period of three years and as such I can also speak with authority on the subject in question. I therefore oppose the motion for the following reason. The question of the number of Inspectors in the Salt Factories Division

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[Mr. A. Hoogewerf.]

was discussed at length at the budget debates of 1097 and 1098 and the House was good enough to pass the demand. Of the seven Inspectors employed in the Salt Factories Division 5 are in charge of the factories at and about Tamarakulam, one in charge of the Salt Factory at Rajakkamangalam and the other in charge of the Salt Factory and Sea Customs House at Colachel. The Inspector at Colachel having control over two institutions has barely enough time to attend to both. He is also the Port Officer at Colachel. The Inspector at Rajakkamangalam who is in charge of the old and new factories there is necessary, since the factories at Rajakkamangalam cannot be added on to any of the neighbouring factories which are 13 and odd miles away.

There are ten factories at Tamarakulam and there are only five Inspectors.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): What is the area of the salt factory at Tamarakulam?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): 1,100 and odd acres.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Am I to understand that all these 1,100 acres are under salt cultivation?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): That is the extent of the premises. The salt area is only 473 acres.

Whenever possible one Inspector is given two factories when they are adjacent to each other and where it is found that the Inspector can discharge his duties without detriment to Government revenue. One Inspector is in charge of the Extension Factories Nos. I and II, another in charge of Puttallom, a third in charge of the Srimulagopalanathan *allom*, the fourth in charge of Srimulakrishnamani and Sri Sankara factories and the fifth is in charge of Tamarakulam old and old Extension factories. The area allotted to each Inspector is too much for a single officer to effectively discharge the duties allotted to him. The duties and obligations imposed by the Salt Rules are of varied character and unless there is a responsible officer on the spot the rules are sure to be evaded with consequent loss of revenue. Almost every provision contained in the Salt Rules fixes the responsibility on the officer in charge of the factory to see to its enforcement. The responsibility begins with the letting of the brine into the pans and continues till the salt manufactured is issued out and the duty thereon is remitted into the treasury. Under Section 3 (4) the officer in charge of the factory is bound to see to the good quality of the salt manufactured and it is also his duty to see that after every fifth scraping the pans are entirely emptied and the bitterns thrown away and fresh brine run in before scraping is resumed.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): May I know whether the issue of salt to merchants takes place simultaneously in all the factories?

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Is there not an order that the issue of salt should be made in consecutive order and not all together?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): I am coming to that.

PRESIDENT: You may come somewhere here to the front, Mr. Govinda Pillai, and speak. Then you will be heard better.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): He should also see that no salt is scraped ordinarily when the density of the brine in the pans exceeds 30° beaume. The regulation of scraping is also fixed on the Inspector (*Vide* section 27). Under Section 3 (10) the Factory Inspector is responsible for seeing at the close of the manufacture that the licensee drains off all brine from his condensers and crystallising beds such manner as to prevent the formation of spontaneous salt. If any such salt is formed the factory officer is authorised to destroy it at the licensee's expense. Again, after the salt is scraped it has to be removed to the drying ground. But under the Salt Rules (Section 26) no salt can be removed to the drying ground unless estimated by the estimating officer who is always the Inspector in charge of the factory. Before salt is taken to the place of storage it should be sufficiently dry, and if it is not so, the factory officer is authorised to refuse to allow the storage of salt (*vide* section 40).

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I wish to know how often he does this---this estimation of scraping, etc.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): It is all regularly done.

MR A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): How often in a week or month?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): As soon as the salt is removed from the pan to the ridges it is estimated.

It is the business of the Inspector to allot and regulate storage accommodation among the licensees. (*Vide* Section 35 to 38.) If a licensee fails to store within the prescribed time the Inspector of the factory under section 39 should take steps for the storage at the licensee's cost. Under Section 48 it is the factory Inspector who should receive the application for salt and the amount due to the Government on the salt to be removed from the factory and he is responsible for its safe remittance into the treasury the same day. When sales are going on in two factories at once it would be physically impossible for one Inspector to discharge the function in both factories. That is what happens in the case of Mr. Karayalar's factory and Mr. Krishna Aiyar's factory. The business would begin at 9 or 10 A. M. and he can go to Mr. Karayalar's factory at 1 P. M. While I was in charge of the factories Mr. Karayalar complained to me that the placing of one Inspector for two factories was annoying.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram cum Shencottah*): That is the very reason why I propose one Inspector to be in charge of our two factories.

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[Mr. K. Govinda Pillai.]

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): That may be; but he has complained to me.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Is there not a standing rule that the issue should be made from one factory after another only, at a time?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): No, there is no such rule. All the factories are kept open and the merchants are at liberty to purchase from whatever factory they like.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I was myself in charge of the Salt Factories. I think there is a rule that the salt must be issued factory after factory.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): No, it is not so.

Under Section 48 it is the factory Inspector who should receive the application for salt and the amount due to the Government on the salt to be removed from the factory and he is responsible for its safe remittance into the treasury the same day.

PRESIDENT: You have got only ten minutes.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): This is a very wide question.

PRESIDENT: You may state all the points briefly.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): What I am explaining is fully known to Mr. Karayalar himself.

PRESIDENT: You should explain it to the House also.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): I have not much to read; there is only about a page more.

Under Sections 15 and 17 any application for the transfer of right of any of the licensees has to be enquired into by the Factory Inspector and disposed of. The provisions relating to check-weighment contained in Sections 58 to 60 throw more serious responsibility on the Factory Inspectors. The above are only some of the duties of the Inspector in charge of a salt factory. In fact a kind perusal of the conditions usually embodied in a license (*vide* Sections 3 and 6) will show the extent of responsibility on the part of the Inspector in charge of the factory. It will be observed from a perusal of the Salt Rules that the Inspector has barely enough time to attend to the multifarious duties devolving upon him. At present there are two instances where one Inspector manages two factories, but they are cases where one or both the factories are in an undeveloped state. When fully developed, these factories will need separate Inspectors.

Besides, the way in which salt is stored may also be dealt with in this connection. Salt is stored in heaps in open spaces. These heaps are covered with palmyrah or cocoanut leaves and the open spaces are no doubt fenced round with prickly pear. But the fencing is after all

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a poor protection against theft of salt. Instances of theft of salt are not infrequent. The slightest collusion between the licensees and a few low-paid subordinates who are posted for guard duty will give rise to numerous thefts resulting in serious loss of revenue to Government. Even if salt is stolen on account of the indifference of the licensees or the low-paid subordinates, the former lose only $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$ as. per maund, *i. e.*, cost of production, while Government lose Bh. Re. one and annas four and sometimes more per maund.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I wish to ask Mr. Govinda Pillai whether the subordinates of the Excise Department, the Petty Officers and others, are corrupt.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): It is not possible to prevent corruption when there are more than 150 men. There is corruption not only in our Department. There are black sheep everywhere.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Is it not possible to prevent corruption by getting rid of these black sheep?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): It is not possible to prevent it in a department where there are such a large number of employees. How could it be possible? (*Laughter.*)

Government have thus a greater stake in the salt and it is therefore in the interests of the Government that there should be effective check of the patrol work of the subordinates and this the Inspector will not be able to do if the area of jurisdiction is further increased. Again, the Inspector should be present when the salt is being issued out as he is responsible for the correct weighment and check-weighment and realisation of Government dues.

From what I have said already it will be clear, if the House is dispassionate, that every Inspector has got ample work to perform if the rules are to be strictly enforced. Probably, there may occur a revision of the rules. Then, of course, the question is different. But if the present rules are to be strictly enforced, every Inspector will have sufficient duty to perform and therefore, I hope, Mr. Karayalar, having known all these things, will be kind enough to withdraw the motion.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencottah*): I have provided one Inspector for our two *alloms* and one Inspector for each of the other *alloms*.

PRESIDENT: You will have to say that in your reply. You have a right of reply.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): May I ask whether there is any rule that the arrack from the distillery—

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): That is a different question. I will be coming to that. We will go to arrack. (*Laughter.*)

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I know that is a different question. Arrack and salt are two different things. My question is whether there is any rule that arrack should

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be issued only by the Inspectors in charge of the warehouses and not by the Petty Officers.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): Under the present orders, the Petty Officers are empowered to issue chalans and to issue arrack also in the absence of the Inspector. It was at the time when the member was in the Department that the Inspector alone had the power to issue arrack. It was only recently that the rule was changed.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Is it necessary under the present rules that the Inspector alone should issue arrack from the distillery?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): No.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Can the Petty Officer do so?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): Yes.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Why not the same thing be done in the case of salt? Cannot the Petty Officer do this work which is now said to be done by the Inspector?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): The cases are different. The position of the Inspector as regards the warehouse has not been defined by any rules. But in the case of salt, it has been defined by rules passed by His Highness the Maha Raja. In the case of arrack it is only a departmental order; not so in the case of salt.

PRESIDENT: What is the essential difference between the two? If the Petty Officer can issue arrack, why not he do so in the case of salt? That is what Mr. Velu Pillai asks.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): As regards salt, the Petty Officer has different functions to perform at the time the Inspector has to issue salt.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Cannot these rules be changed?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): That is not the work of the department. Probably that is left for you.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): ഫോൺ ർ-ൽനിന്നും ഫോൺവ-ൽ എത്തിയപ്പോൾ ഉപ്പിന്റെ വിലവ്യത്യാസം വരുത്തിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): കുറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ട്.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): അന്നത്തെ ശമ്പളപ്പിലവിൽനിന്നു് ഇപ്പോൾ എത്രകുടിട്ടുണ്ടു്?

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PRESIDENT: How does it arise here? The question is about the sufficiency or insufficiency of the staff. Mr. Karayalar has brought forward a motion that a portion of the staff could be dispensed with without detriment to the work in the salt pans. That is the question under discussion.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): It has been the practice in this House when demands are brought forward by the heads of departments to catalogue a number of duties of the officers. It is said 'the officer has to do this, that and the other, and unless this demand is sanctioned the whole house will collapse like a pack of cards.' That is what we have been hearing from many of the heads of important departments; for instance, the Land Revenue Commissioner said that unless the Assistant Tahsildars—

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I never referred to any pack of cards. (*Laughter.*)

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): After all is said and done there are only five or ten factories in Tamarakulam. One is the neighbour of the other and there is just one lake dividing one factory from the other. I was myself Assistant Excise Commissioner in charge of Salt Factories for a long time and I have studied closely the conditions there. When I was there, there was only one Inspector in charge of two of the big factories there which used to manufacture about 4 lakhs of maunds of salt. All this talk about issue and testing of the brine may be told to the marines, but the sailors will not believe it. As a matter of fact, the issue generally takes place only from individual factories, and if it is not so, it is not impossible to arrange the matter so as to have issues made from one factory alone at a time. The testing of brine is also done by the Inspector, the Petty Officer and a few peons. This, though an important work, is not the herculean task it is stated to be. As regards the weighing of salt, it is done by the Petty Officer and checked by the Inspector. There is the Assistant Excise Commissioner in charge of all these, and he can come at any moment to supervise all the work that is being done by the subordinate officers. So I contend that one Inspector can very well be in charge of two factories. As suggested by Mr. Karayalar, some of the Inspectors in the salt factories may be transferred to the northern taluks where they say they want some men on account of the introduction of the independent shop system there, and no new grant need be made now. Mr. Karayalar, I am very glad to see, has come to help us in this respect. As stated by Mr. Velu Pillai, Mr. Karayalar has first-hand knowledge of the subject and I think the information he gives us is very valuable. I fully expect the Acting Excise Commissioner to make this reduction in this allotment. I fully support Mr. Karayalar's motion.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencottah*): Sir, I have proposed certain reductions in the staff in the Salt Factories and I have not lost sight of the interest either of Government or of the public or of the licensees. It is my practical experience of

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the working of the salt factories in the last ten years that has enabled me to come to the conclusion that the staff that I propose to reduce is quite unnecessary. My friend the Ag. Excise Commissioner urged that one Inspector was necessary and I have provided one Inspector for each factory. The only alteration that I have made is in respect of the Sri Sankara *allom* and Sri Krishnamani *allom* being placed under the control of one Inspector. I have taken away Sri Krishnamani *allom* from the control of that Inspector and added instead, the Gopalanathan *allom*. That is the only change. There is one Inspector for Puttallom. He may be asked to control the Sri Sankara *allom* also, because the salt scraped from Puttallom goes to Government and not to the licensees. There is one Inspector in the Cape Comorin Company *allom* and Messrs. Avathanigal's *allom*. There is no reason why one should not attend to both of our *alloms*. The statement that the Inspectors alone attend in these *alloms*, I cannot believe, because, as a matter of fact, invariably the Petty Officers do this work and the Inspectors only do the check-weighment. Therefore, practically there would be no difficulty in working these factories even after the proposed reduction is made. I propose to reduce one Inspector, 10 Petty Officers and 36 peons, and I say, these officers can very well be deputed to the taluks in North Travancore where the independent shop system is proposed to be introduced.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): Under the existing rules all the factories—

PRESIDENT: A little louder, please.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): Under the existing rules, when one factory is opened all the other factories also are opened, so that the merchant may go from factory to factory and purchase salt from whichever factory he likes. In some factories the salt may be bad. The merchant may not like it. He may like to purchase from the factory which has good salt. This is only consistent with the rules. If this is to be done, there must be one Inspector for each factory. The reduction of the staff would, therefore, be against the Salt Rules. Further, at present, each factory produces a good deal of salt and the whole has to be weighed, stored and sold under the supervision of the Inspector. The testing of the brine and the removal of bad salt from good salt has been entirely left to the Inspector. Therefore, one Inspector is absolutely necessary to look after the big factories comprising about forty-five acres each.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram cum Shencottah*): I have already provided—

PRESIDENT: Are you putting a question to the Excise Commissioner?

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Shencottah cum Pattanapuram*): I have nothing more to ask.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): Under these circumstances, I beg to bring to the notice of the House that any

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reduction will tell upon Government revenue and lead to malpractices in the factories.

As regards Puttallom, which Mr. Karayalar referred to, the Government, no doubt, have a right to take all the salt there for their use, but if the people want that salt, Government sell that salt also, along with the salt in other factories.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram cum Shencottah*): In regard to that—

PRESIDENT: You are not in order, Mr. Karayalar. You have to sit down. You can only put a question now.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): I have nothing more to say except that any reduction in the staff in the salt factories would tell upon Government revenue and probably we may get a lot of complaints from the other licensees.

The motion was then put to the vote of the House and lost.

Motion 57.

The following motion was not made :—

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI:

57. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 48,569 for salaries and Establishment by Rs. 1,716.

(Reduction of 1 Sub-Inspector, 2 Petty Officers and 6 peons.)

Motion 58.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I move the following :—

58. *To reduce the allotment of Rs.* 9,813 *for Petty Officers by Rs.* 429.

(*Reduction of 2 Petty Officers for the Kumari Allom.*)

PRESIDENT: You do not make a speech?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): No, I do not make any speech.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Acting Excise Commissioner*): The Kumari *allom* is a factory very lately opened by Mr. T. V. Krishna Aiyar. It comprises 16·98 acres of which 9 acres have been already opened and 803 pans laid out last year. 150 to 180 maunds of salt were scraped out and now our duty is to see that the salt stored is not stolen by anybody. The presence of the Petty Officers in safeguarding the salt there is absolutely necessary, since the Inspector will be attending only to the older factories. Our request is only for the bare minimum number of hands to look after the factory called Kumari *allom*.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Is it a new *allom*?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): It is quite a new *allom*. For the above reasons, I oppose the motion.

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[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I withdraw the motion

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motions 59 to 61.

The following motions were not moved:—

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI:

59. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 16,075 for peons by Rs. 649.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI:

60. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 47,290 for Salt Factories by Rs. 100.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR:

61. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 47,290 for Salt Factories by Rs. 100.

Motion 62.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): Sir, I beg to move the following motion:—

62. *To reduce the allotment of Rs.* 52,400 *for salt business by Rs.* 100.

ഉപ്പുവില്പനയിൽ നടത്തിപ്പോരുന്ന ഭരണനയങ്ങളെയും അതിലുള്ള ന്യൂനതകളേയും ചൂണ്ടിക്കാണിക്കുന്നതിനായിട്ടാണ് ഈ മോഷൻ കൊണ്ടു വന്നിട്ടുള്ളതു. ഫാമൻ ലെ ബഡ്ജറു നിയമസഭയിൽ ഹാജരാക്കിയപ്പോൾ മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. പി. രാമൻപിള്ള ഹാജരാക്കിയ മോഷണിൽ നടന്ന വാദപ്രതിവാദങ്ങൾ ഏറ്റവും ശ്രദ്ധേയമായിട്ടുള്ളതാണ്. ആ വാദപ്രതിവാദങ്ങളിൽനിന്നും ഉപ്പുവില്പനയിൽ നടന്നുവരുന്ന പലവിധമായ അഴിമതികളെപ്പറ്റി വേണ്ടപോലെ തെളിഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതാണ്. ഗവർൺമെൻറിൽനിന്നും നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള വിലയ്ക്കു ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് ഉപ്പു കിട്ടിവരുന്നില്ലെന്നും, കച്ചവടക്കാർ അമിതമായ ലാഭം എടുത്തുവരുന്നു എന്നും, ആ വാദപ്രതിവാദങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നും ഭംഗിയായി തെളിഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു. അതിനെപ്പറ്റി മിസ്റ്റർ വാൻറാസു അപ്പോൾ ഇങ്ങനെ സമാധാനം പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു:

"With regard to the complaint that the price of salt has been raised, I have to make one or two observations. The merchants sometimes unconscionably raise prices much to the detriment to the poor. That is being constantly watched by my officers and myself. They are bound to report to me the fluctuations in the price of salt in any locality. Any merchant selling salt at a higher rate will lose the privilege of getting salt from the depôts. If the price at any place rises very high, we rush in salt as a temporary measure and offer it at a low price."

അതേ ദിവസം അതേസംഗതിയെപ്പറ്റി മിസ്റ്റർ മാധവറാവു ഹാജരാക്കിയ ഒരു മോഷണിൽ നടന്ന വാദപ്രതിവാദങ്ങൾക്കു അപ്പോൾ മിസ്റ്റർ വാൻറാസു ഇങ്ങനെ സമാധാനം പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു.

"Directly the depôt was closed,' (Port salt depôt, Trivandrum) the effect was seen. The local traders raised the price, because there was no check here. Immediately there

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were complaints and Mr. Adam Sait raised the question in the Legislative Council and on enquiry, the grievance that the prices were high in Trivandrum was found to be true. The depôt was therefore reopened."

തിരുവനന്തപുരത്തുണ്ടായിരുന്ന ഉപ്പുപണ്ടകശാല ഫാമിൻ മാ കരമാസത്തിൽ നിറുത്താൻ ഇടയായി. അതിൽപിന്നീട് തിരുവനന്ത പുരത്തുള്ള കച്ചവടക്കാർ ഉപ്പിനു വിലക്കൂട്ടുകയും, അതിനെതിരായി പരാതിക ളും നിയമസഭയിൽ ചോദ്യങ്ങളും വന്നതിൽപിന്നീട് അന്വേഷണങ്ങളും നടത്തിയപ്പോൾ സംഗതി വാസ്തവമാണെന്നു കാണുകയും അതിൽപി ന്നീട് തിരുവനന്തപുരത്തു വീണ്ടും ഉപ്പുപണ്ടകശാല തുറക്കയും ചെയ്തു എന്നാണ് മിസ്റ്റർ വാൻറാസു പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതു്. ഒരേദിവസം ഒരേസം ഗതിയെപ്പറ്റി മിസ്റ്റർ വാൻറാസു പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ള അഭിപ്രായങ്ങൾക്ക് ഒ രു യോജിപ്പും ഇല്ലാതിരിക്കുന്നു. തിരുവനന്തപുരത്തു വീണ്ടും ഉപ്പുപണ്ട കശാല തുറന്നതു ഫാമിൻ വൃശ്ചികമാസത്തിൽ-അതായതു ഫെ മാ സങ്ങൾ കഴിഞ്ഞതിൽപിന്നീടാണ്. രാജധാനിയായ തിരുവനന്തപുരം ടൌണിൽ എക്സൈസ് കമ്മിഷണർ താമസിച്ചുവരുന്നതായ സ്ഥലത്തു കച്ചവടക്കാർ ഉപ്പിനു വില കൂട്ടിവിറ്റതായ ഈ കാലങ്ങളിൽ എക്സൈ സുകമ്മിഷണരുടെ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ, ഉടനെ കണ്ടുപിടിച്ചു നടപടികളും നടത്തുകയൊ, ആ വിവരം റിപ്പോർട്ടു ചെയ്തയൊ അദ്ദേഹം അതി ലേക്കു ഉടനെ പരിഹാരമുണ്ടാക്കുകയൊ ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതായി കാണുന്നില്ല. എക്സൈസ് കമ്മിഷണർ മിസ്റ്റർ വാൻറാസിന്റെ ഭരണത്തിൽ സ്ഥലസ്ഥാ നമായ തിരുവനന്തപുരത്തു നടത്തീട്ടുള്ള ഉപ്പുവില്പനയിൽ കച്ചവടക്കാർ വിലകൂട്ടിവില്ക്കാൻ ഇടവരികയും അതിനെ ഉടനെ തടുക്കാൻ സാധി ക്കാതെവരികയും ചെയ്യുന്നപക്ഷം ഉൾനാടുകളിലെ സ്ഥിതി എന്തായി ത്തീരുമെന്നുള്ളതു വർണ്ണിക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ലാത്തതാണ്. രാജ്യത്തിൽ ഏതു സ്ഥലത്തായിരുന്നാലും ഉപ്പിനു വിലകൂട്ടി വില്ക്കുന്ന സംഗതിയിൽ മിസ്റ്റർ വാൻറാസിന്റെ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ വേണ്ടപോലെ സൂക്ഷിച്ചുവ രുന്നുണ്ടെന്നും, വിലകളുടെ കൂടുതൽകുറവുകളെപ്പറ്റി അദ്ദേഹത്തോടു റി പ്പോർട്ടു ചെയ്വാൻ അവർ നിർബന്ധപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നുമാണ് മിസ്റ്റർ വാൻ റാസു പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതു്. ഒരു നാട്ടുംപുറത്തു താമസക്കാരനും അവിട ത്തെ സ്ഥിതികളും നല്ലപോലെ അറിയാൻ സൌകര്യമുള്ളതുമായ എ നിക്ക് ഈ സംഗതി വിശ്വസിക്കാൻ നിവൃത്തിമില്ലാതിരിക്കുന്നു. ഉൾ നാടുകളിലുള്ള കടകമ്പോളങ്ങളിൽ കച്ചവടക്കാർക്കു തോന്നിയ വിലയ്ക്ക് ഉപ്പു വിറ്റുവരുന്നു എന്നല്ലാതെ മിസ്റ്റർ വാൻറാസിന്റെ ആളുകളിൽ ആ രുംതന്നെ ഉപ്പുവില്പനയിൽ മേൽപരിശോധന നടത്തിവരുന്നില്ലെന്നുള്ളതു് എനിക്കു ധൈര്യമായി പറയാവുന്നതാണ്.

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[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

തെക്കൻതിരുവിതാംക്കൂറിലെ ഉപ്പുകച്ചവ്ടക്കാർ അളങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നും ഉപ്പു വാങ്ങി ന്യായമായ ലാഭമെടുത്തിട്ടു ചില്ലറ കച്ചവടക്കാക്കു കൊടുക്കുന്നു. ഓരോ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലേയും ചില്ലറ കച്ചവടക്കാർ തമ്മിൽ യോജിച്ചു വില നിശ്ചയിച്ചാണ് അവർ വില്ക്കുന്നത്. ഓരോ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലും ചാല മുദ്രയ്ക്ക് ഇന്നവിലവച്ചു വില്ക്കണമെന്നാണ് എക്സൈസു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലെ ഭരണറിപ്പോർട്ടുകളിൽ നിന്നും കാണുന്നത്. ആ നിശ്ചയങ്ങളും ക്ലിപ്തങ്ങളും കടലാസുകളിൽ മാത്രമേ കാണാവുള്ളൂ. ഉപ്പു വില്പനയിൽ ചാലമുദ്ര ഇടങ്ങഴി ഉഴംനാഴികളിൽ ആരും ഉപയോഗിച്ചുവരുന്നില്ല. അവക്കു സൌകര്യവും ലാഭവുമായ അളവുകളാണ് ഉപയോഗിച്ചുവരുന്നത്. ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് ഉപ്പുവില്ക്കുന്ന ചില്ലറ കച്ചവടക്കാർ ചാക്കിന് ഒരു രൂപാമുതൽ രണ്ടുരൂപാവരെ ലാഭമെടുത്തുവരുന്നതു സാധരണയാണ്.

കച്ചവടക്കാരുടെ അക്രമമായ ഈ പ്രവൃത്തിയെ തടുക്കാനൊ നിയന്ത്രിക്കാനൊ എക്സൈസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലെ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ ശ്രദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്നില്ല.

ഉപ്പുപണ്ടകശാലകളിൽ നിന്നും കച്ചവടക്കാക്ക് ഉപ്പുകൊടുക്കുന്നതിൽ അധികൃതന്മാർ കാണിച്ചുവരുന്ന അഴിമതികളെപ്പറ്റി കഴിഞ്ഞതവണ ഈ സമയത്തു വടക്കൻദിക്കിലെ ഒരു പ്രധാന കച്ചവടക്കാരനും, ഈ നിയമസഭയിലെ ഒരു മെംബരുമായ മിസ്റ്റർ കാതർപിള്ള ഇങ്ങനെ പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു.

"I am a merchant doing business at Alwaye. The merchants of Muvattupuzha, Kunnatnad, and Todupuzha are my constituents. I am dealing with all commodities except salt and a few other things. I know that merchants are selling salt at Rs. 10 and Rs. 12 whereas the actual cost is Rs. 7 according to the Government Rules. To get salt, the excise authorities issue rules and select a few merchants who are the favourites of the Assistant Commissioners or others. I can give evidence that those who pay or do something to please the Assistant Commissioner, and others alone get salt."

അതേവിഷയത്തെപ്പറ്റിയുള്ള വാദപ്രതിവാദങ്ങളിൽ വേറെയൊരു ഘട്ടത്തിൽ മിസ്റ്റർ കാതർപിള്ള ഇങ്ങനെ പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു.

"In the Munambam salt depôt, three pies are to be given to the depôt officers to get salt. Now, at this time, to get salt early, the merchants will have to pay more. Otherwise they will have to stay there for many days; the depôt officer will say: "It is not convenient to me; there are other people who will have to be sold salt to," and so on. So to get salt early, the merchants have to pay something to the officers. In our place, salt was sold at eight chackrams per *edangali*, the cost price of which is only three and a half chackrams. I have brought this matter to the notice of Government also, but I received no reply."

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അതേ സംഗതിയിൽ വേറൊരവസരത്തിൽ വീണ്ടും അദ്ദേഹം ഇങ്ങനെപറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു.

"About the Assistant Commissioners, the merchants say they have to pay Re. 1 and depôt officer three pies".

കൈക്കൂലിക്കാരായ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെ ചൂണ്ടിക്കാണിച്ചു പറയുന്നതിന് ഇവിടെയുള്ള ജനങ്ങൾ മുമ്പിട്ടുവരുന്നില്ലെന്നും അതിനാൽ ഗവർൺമെൻറിനും അവരുടെ വലിയ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാക്കും വേണ്ടതു പ്രവർത്തിക്കാൻ സാധിക്കാതെവരുന്നു എന്നും ഫസ്റ്റ്-ക്ലാസ്സിലെ പ്രജാസഭയിൽ കൈക്കൂലിയെപ്പറ്റി പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ള നിവേദനങ്ങൾക്കു ദിവാൻജി അവർകൾ മറുപടി പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു.

Mr. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Sir, I rise to a point of order. Mr. Stephenson is just now sitting on the non-official side. (*Laughter.*)

PRESIDENT: I should be very glad if that is permanent. If all of us could join the non-official side, there would be no difference in the House. (*Laughter.*)

Mr. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): മേൽ വിവരിച്ച സംഗതികൾ തുറന്ന കൌൺസിലിൽവച്ച് അതിലെ ഒരു ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട മെംബർ വ്യക്തമായ ഭാഷയിൽ ആളുകളെ ചൂണ്ടിക്കാണിച്ചു പറഞ്ഞിട്ട് ഇപ്പോൾ ഒരു കൊല്ലത്തോളമായിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇതിലേക്ക് എക്സൈസ് കമ്മിഷണർ എന്തു നടപടികൾ നടത്തി എന്നും, അതിന്മേൽ ഗവർൺമെൻറ് എന്തു ചെയ്തു എന്നും ഇതുവരെ ആർക്കും അറിയാൻപാടില്ലാതിരിക്കുന്നു.

ഉപ്പു വില്പനയിലുള്ള അഴിമതികൾ നിറുത്തേണ്ടതു് അത്യാവശ്യമായിരിക്കുന്നു. പണ്ടകശാലകളിൽനിന്നും ഉപ്പു വാങ്ങുമ്പോൾ കൈക്കൂലി കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതായി വരുന്ന നഷ്ടം പലിശയോടുകൂടി ഉപ്പുവാങ്ങുന്ന സാധുക്കളിൽനിന്നും കച്ചവടക്കാർ വാങ്ങുകതന്നെ ചെയ്യും. അങ്ങനെ വരുമ്പോൾ ഗവർൺമെൻറിൽനിന്നും നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള വിലയ്ക്കു ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് ഉപ്പു കിട്ടാൻ സാധിക്കുന്നതല്ല. പണ്ടകശാലകളിൽനിന്നും ഉപ്പു വിൽക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള അഴിമതികളേയും അതിനെ സൌകര്യമാക്കി കച്ചവടക്കാർ ജനങ്ങളോട് അതിയായ ലാഭമെടുത്തുവരുന്നതിനേയും മിസ്റ്റർ കാതർപിള്ള കൌൺസിലിൽവച്ച ഭംഗിയായി തെളിയിച്ചു കഴിഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു. അതിനെ ദുർബലപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതിന് എന്തെല്ലാം സമാധാനങ്ങൾ മിസ്റ്റർ വാൻറാസ് പറഞ്ഞു എന്നിരുന്നാലും പരമാർത്ഥമായ സംഗതികളെ ജനങ്ങളുടെ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽനിന്നും ആർക്കും മറച്ചുവയ്ക്കാൻ സാധിക്കുന്നതല്ല. ഉപ്പുവില്പന മുതലായ പലേ അഴിമതികളും എക്സൈസ്ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെ

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[Mr. K. Govinda Pillai.]

ൻറിൽ ഓരോ ദിവസവും വഷിച്ചുവരികയാണ് ചെയ്യുന്നത്. ഈ അ ഴിമതികളെ നിവൃത്തുന്നതിന് ഇന്നത്തെ എക്സൈസ് കമ്മിഷണർ മിസ്റ്റർ വാൻറാസിനെക്കൊണ്ടു സാധിക്കുമെന്ന്, ആ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൻെറ ഇന ത്തെസ്ഥിതികളെപ്പററി അറിയാവുന്നതിൽ ആരുംതന്നെ കരുതുന്നില്ല. അതിനാൽ അതിലേക്ക സാമത്ഥ്യവും, ശക്തിയും, സത്യസന്ധതയും ഉള്ള രാളെ എക്സൈസ് ഭരണം ഏൽപ്പിക്കുന്നതു ഗവണ്മെൻറിൻെറ യശസ്സി നും, ജനങ്ങളുടെ നന്മയ്ക്കു അത്യാവശ്യമായിരിക്കുന്നു.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): I am aware, Sir, that there is a charge against certain Excise Officers of the Northern Division. Mr. Van Ross, the Excise Commissioner, proceeded to the north with a view to make an enquiry into the serious nature of the charge. But I regret to say that the person who made the charge against the officer was not able to substantiate or give proper evidence in respect of the charge. He did not even help in the enquiry.

MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*): I protest against that. I did not say so.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): That is my information.

As regards the sale of salt—

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): May I know from the Excise Commissioner, whether any statement was taken from Mr. Khadir Pillai? Was there any investigation conducted, and was any record made?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): I think so.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): The member does not know that definitely?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): I think a certain record was made.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Will the member be pleased to lay it on the table?

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Was Mr. Khadir Pillai informed of the fact that an investigation was going to be made?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): Yes. The charge was not proved. And a record of the investigation was made.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Had he—

PRESIDENT: Have you had occasion to read the file and the papers connected with the subject, Mr. Govinda Pillai?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): No, I have not read the file.

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PRESIDENT: What is it Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai? Do you want to put a question?

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): That was the question I wanted to put.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): As regards the raising of the price of salt, I beg to submit—

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): Is the Excise Commissioner in a position to give difinite information with regard to the particulars of the investigation?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): No. As regards the raising of the price of salt, the Excise Commissioner has no power to fix the price or the rate at which salt has to be sold. What we can do whenever a complaint is made, is that we can make some temporary arrangement to satisfy the public needs. We can open a factory and send some quantity of salt so that prices may be kept down. And we will make a note of the complaint and enquire into it. It is with that object that the salt factory at Valiaturai was re-opened. It is to a certain extent true that the prices were occasionally raised by the people of the taluk.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): ഈ വിവരം എക്സൈസ് കമ്മിഷണരുടെ മുമ്പാകെ കൊണ്ടുവന്നിട്ടുള്ളതിനെപ്പറ്റി നടപടി നടത്തീട്ടില്ല. എക്സൈസ്കമ്മിഷണരുടെ മുമ്പാകെവച്ചു കൂടുതൽ വിലയ്ക്ക് വിൽക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. അപ്പോഴും ഒന്നും ചെയ്യുന്നില്ലല്ലോ.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): എനി ക്കതിനെപ്പറ്റി അറിവുകിട്ടീട്ടില്ല.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): What I ask is, cannot the Department sell salt so as to put down prices?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): The policy of the department is not to enter into trade as a private business. We have left it to open competition. If there are two persons, both of them probably may collude together and raise the price. But the best thing will be to leave it to public competition. I think it is not the work of the Department to enter into trade, which must be carried on by private persons. That is why salt depôts alone are reserved so that merchants may come freely and purchase salt.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I wish to know whether, when prices of salt went up almost double of what they were in the depôts, the department rushed salt to Alwaye to keep down the prices.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): Will the member be pleased to repeat the question? I did not hear him.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): There was an inordinate nflation of prices in Alwaye. It formed the subject of complaint in the

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[President.]

House by Mr. Khadir Pillai and others. I wish to know whether, when those high prices were prevailing at Alwaye, the Department rushed some salt to Alwaye to reduce the price, which, Mr. Govinda Pillai said, was the practice of the Department.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): Sir, the Munambam depôt is maintained for the supply of salt to the four taluks of Parur, Kunnatnad and Muvattupuzha and Todupuzha. But when there was no Bombay salt in the Alleppey depôt, people from Changanachery, Ettumanur, Kottayam and other places rushed in and it is our duty to see that the salt supply is sufficient for the four taluks for which the Munambam depôt is intended. But when there is demand from Changanachery, Kottayam and other places, it has been the custom sometimes to restrict the sale so that the salt may not go out of the four taluks.

PRESIDENT: You are not answering his question. He wants to know whether salt was rushed to Alwaye when a complaint was made to this House that the prices ruling were excessive.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): I have no information.

PRESIDENT: Have you anything more to say?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): Nothing more remains to be answered.

MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*): A word of personal explanation.

PRESIDENT: You have got the right to speak. So you may speak.

MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*): I made some complaints about the high rate of salt in my place last year. The merchants told me that they had to pay one rupee to get the authorities to sell salt. The Excise Commissioner came there for investigation and asked me to give evidence. I told him that what I said in the Council was true. The Assistant Excise Commissioner admitted that fact.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Was it in the presence of the Excise Commissioner that he admitted?

MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*): Yes.

He got an order from the Government to increase the rate of salt on the 1st March and he received a telegram on the 3rd or 4th. During that time, an interval of three or four days, the depôt officer issued salt at the higher rate to some of the merchants. It is on that account that they received Re. 1 extra from the merchants. The Excise Commissioner was satisfied that the extra money received had been remitted into the treasury. So I wanted to give no more evidence. I proved what I said in the Council.

PRESIDENT: So what you want to say is that the extra levy was made under the orders of Government and remitted into the treasury.

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MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*) : I had no information at that time. So I made that statement here.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I know whether Mr. Khadir Pillai is still maintaining the old position that he assumed in the House, namely, that a certain officer realised more than the amount due ?

MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*) : The merchants told me that the Assistant Excise Commissioner required money.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*) : ഹജ്ജി ഗവർമ്മെൻറിലേക്ക കിട്ടിട്ടുണ്ടോ ? മിസ്റ്റർ കാതർപിള്ള എഴുതി അയച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടോ ?

MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*) : ഉണ്ട്.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): ആകാലത്താണൊ?

MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*) : അതേ. ആ കാലത്ത്തന്നെ ക്ഷാമവും മറ്റും ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നകാലത്തു തന്നെ.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*) : ഹജ്ജി അയച്ചതിൽപിന്നീടോ, മുമ്പോ ?

MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*) : അതിൽ പിന്നീടതന്നെ.

PRESIDENT: The complaint then made by Mr. Khadir Pillai was that some illegal extra levy was made. What he now explains is that the extra levy was a regular levy.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*) : ആകാലത്താണൊ ഈ മുന്നൊന്നായും അതിൽ കൂടുതലായും പിരിച്ചു വന്നിരുന്നത് ?

MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*) : അതു് ഇപ്പോഴും ഉണ്ട്. കച്ചവടക്കാർ അങ്ങനെയാണ് വിളിക്കുന്നത് .അതു്ധർമ്മക്കുഴിയാണ്.

PRESIDENT: You have to explain it if you have not finished your say.

MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*) : I have finished.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*) : Before Mr. Khadir Pillai sits down, may I ask how long or for what period this levy, or whatever it is called, was recovered ?

PRESIDENT: To what levy are you referring ? There are two or three levies.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*) : The bigger levy.

MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*) : I beleive, for a month.

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[Mr. R. Krishna Pillai.]

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Was a list of all the merchants who paid the levy kept, and were they bound to recover it?

MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*): Sir—

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Sir, I rise to a point of order. Mr. Khadir Pillai cannot answer, because he has sat down. Because another member has put a question he cannot answer, for he has already sat down.

PRESIDENT: He cannot—

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Sir, may I also rise to a point of order—whether the gentleman has the right to sit down when a question is asked. (*Laughter.*)

PRESIDENT: He is not bound to answer. Further, no question can be put to a member after he has sat down.

The Council adjourned for lunch at 2-15 P. M. and re-assembled at 3-10 P. M.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Sir, in regard to the allegations made by Mr. Khadir Pillai, I should like to say a word by way of explanation. At the meeting of the Council held in August, 1923, Mr. Khadir Pillai made the following allegation:

"I am a merchant doing business at Alwaye. The merchants of Muvattupuzha, Kunnatnad and Todupuzha are my constituents. I am dealing in almost all commodities except salt and a few other things. I know that merchants are selling salt at Rs. 10 and Rs. 12, whereas the actual cost is Rs. 7 according to the Government rules."

Again he said:

"To get salt, the Excise authorities issue rules and select a few merchants who are the favourites of the Assistant Commissioners or others. I can give evidence that those who pay or do something to please the Assistant Commissioner and others alone get salt."

When he was asked whether he had sent a letter to the Dewan, Mr. Khadir Pillai replied:

"But some others forged my name and sent a letter. The contents of the letter however, are true; but the Commissioner did not send me the letter as desired by me."

I wish to read another statement also made by Mr. Khadir Pillai.

"Mr. Mammen Mappillai told us that there is some *mamool* going on in the depôts. That also I can say is true, for in the Munambam salt depot three pies are to be given to the depôt officers to get salt. Now, at this time, to get salt early, the merchants will have to pay more. Otherwise they will have to stay there for many days; the depôt officer will say: "It is not convenient to me; there are other people who will have to be sold salt to," and so on. So to get salt early, the merchants have to pay something to the officers. In our place, salt was sold at 8 *chackrams* per *edangali*, the cost price of which is only three and a half *chackrams*."

In regard to these statements, the Excise Commissioner said that, in view of the definite statements made by Mr. Khadir Pillai, he would be prepared to take definite action, and hoped that Mr. Khadir Pillai would help him in the matter. Mr. Van Ross accordingly proceeded to

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Alwaye early in Chingam 1099 to hold an enquiry into the matter. He asked Mr. Khadir Pillai to meet him at Alwaye on the 7th with the witnesses he proposed examine in connection with the enquiry. But Mr. Khadir Pillai did not produce any witnesses nor did he give a list of witnesses to be examined. On the other hand, Mr. Khadir Pillai handed over to the Commissioner a letter stating that the remarks he made in the Legislative Council against Mr. Oommen were based on the allegations of the merchants of Alwaye. On enquiry among the merchants Mr. Van Ross understood that some merchants had been asked by Mr. Oommen to pay the excess duty on salt sold after the new rate of duty came into force. Hence the statements of Mr. Khadir Pillai in regard to Mr. Oomman were incorrect. Mr. Khadir Pillai also requested Mr. Van Ross that no further enquiry need be made in the matter. The latter also took a statement from Mr. Khadir Pillai in regard to the three pies alleged to have been levied at the Munambam depôt. The statement ran thus:

"Besides the collection on account of the excess duty which I now understand has been the case, I am not aware of any collection made by the Assistant Excise Commissioner for any other purpose. The collection of three pies at the Munambam depot was made by the contractor for charitable purposes. I am not aware that it prevails now."

I have nothing more to say. Independently of the statement made by Mr. Khadir Pillai, Mr. Van Ross made a personal enquiry and found that the allegations made against Mr. Oommen were absolutely unfounded. Accordingly he made a report to Government and it was recorded.

Mr. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Is that report available for the Council?

Mr. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): There is no objection to the report being placed before the Council. I did not do it out of deference to Mr. Khadir Pillai who is a member of this House.

Mr. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankód*): ഉപ്പുവില്പനയിൽ മുനമ്പം മുതലായ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലെ പണ്ടകശാലകളിൽ നടന്നു വന്നിരുന്നതായ കൈക്കൂലികളെപ്പറ്റി മിസ്റ്റർ കാതർപിള്ള കൌൺസിലിൽ പ്രസ്താവിക്കുന്നതിനു മുമ്പുതന്നെ ഫാറസ്റ്റ് കമ്മിറ്റിക്കായി ആലുവായിൽ എത്തിയിരുന്ന അനുദ്യോഗസ്ഥമെംബന്മാരായ ഞങ്ങളോടു പറഞ്ഞിരുന്നു. ഈ സംഗതി ഞങ്ങളോടു പറയുമ്പോൾ നിയമനിർമ്മാണമെംബർ മിസ്റ്റർ എ. ഗോവിന്ദമേനവനും കൂടിയുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. ഉപ്പുവില്പനയിലുള്ള ഈ അഴിമതികളെപ്പറ്റി മിസ്റ്റർ കാതർപിള്ള മാത്രമല്ല അവിടെവന്നിട്ടുള്ള പലരും ഞങ്ങളോടു പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. മിസ്റ്റർ കാതർപിള്ള ഞങ്ങളോടു പറയുന്നതിനുണ്ടായ കാരണംതന്നെ ഉപ്പുവില്പനയിൽ അവിടെ നടത്തിപ്പോരുന്ന അഴിമതികളെപ്പറ്റി ഞങ്ങൾ എല്ലാവരും ഒന്നുചേർന്നു ഗവർണ്മെൻറിലേക്ക് എഴുതിഅയക്കണമെന്നു

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[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

ള്ളതിനായിരുന്നു. എന്നാൽ അവിടത്തെ ഉപ്പു വില്പനയിൽ ഞങ്ങൾക്കു വേണ്ടപോലെ അനേഷണംനടത്തി വിവരം ഗവർണ്മെൻറിനെ അറിയിക്കുന്നതിനു സമയവും സൌകര്യവും പോരാതെ വന്നതിനാൽ അതിലേക്കു സാധിച്ചില്ല. ആ ചുമതല മിസ്റ്റർ കാതർപിള്ളതന്നെ വഹിക്കണമെന്നാണ് ഞങ്ങൾ അദ്ദേഹത്തോട് അപ്പോൾ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളത്. മിസ്റ്റർ കാതർപിള്ള ഈ വിവരങ്ങൾ എക്സൈസ് കമ്മിഷണർക്കും ഗവർണ്മെൻറിനും എഴുതി അയച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നും അതിലേക്കു മറുപടിയോ, ഉപ്പുവില്പനയിലുള്ള കൈക്രൂലികൾക്കു കുറവോ ഉണ്ടായിട്ടില്ലെന്നും ഞങ്ങളോട് അപ്പോൾ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. ഈ സംഭവങ്ങളെ അടിസ്ഥാനമാക്കിയാണ് കഴിഞ്ഞതവണ ഈ സമയത്തു നിയമസഭയിൽ വച്ചു മിസ്റ്റർ പി വി. ഡാനിയൽ ഇങ്ങനെ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളത്.

"When we were at Alwaye recently to attend a meeting of the Forest Committee, this grievance of the public was brought before us as well."

വാസ്തവങ്ങൾ ഇങ്ങനെയെല്ലാമാണെങ്കിലും എക്സൈസ് കമ്മിഷണർ സ്ഥലത്തുപോയി അനേഷണങ്ങൾ നടത്തിയപ്പോൾ മിസ്റ്റർ കാതർപിള്ള പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ള കാര്യങ്ങളെ ദുർബലപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതിനു വേണ്ട വ്യാഖ്യാനങ്ങളോടുകൂടി ഗവർണ്മെൻറിനു റിപ്പോർട്ടചെയ്തിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ റിപ്പോർട്ടിനെ അടിസ്ഥാനമാക്കി ഗവർണ്മെൻറു സമാധാനപ്പെടുമായിരിക്കാമെന്നിരുന്നാലും ഈ സംഗതികൾ അനുഭവത്താൽ അറിയാവുന്ന ജനങ്ങളെ സമാധാനപ്പെടുത്താൻ സാധിക്കുന്നതല്ല. ഗവർണ്മെൻറിന്റെ അഭിമാനത്തേയും പബ്ലിക്കു സർവ്വീസിന്റെ കളങ്കരഹിതമായ നിലയേയും പരിപാലിക്കുന്നതിനുവേണ്ടി ഇത്തരം സംഗതികളിൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു മേലധികാരികൾ വേണ്ടപോലെ അനേഷണം നടത്തി കുറക്കാരെ ശിക്ഷിക്കുന്നതിനു വേണ്ട സഹായസഹകരണങ്ങൾ ചെയ്യുന്നതിനു പകരം അവരെ രക്ഷിക്കാൻ നോക്കുന്നത് ഒരിക്കലും ന്യായമായിട്ടുള്ളതല്ല. പബ്ലിക്കു സർവ്വീസിനെ നിഷ്കളങ്കമായി വച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കണമെന്നാണ് ഗവർണ്മെൻറും ജനങ്ങളും കരുതുന്നത്. അങ്ങനെ ഇരുകൂട്ടർക്കും ഒരുപോലെ അഭിപ്രായമുള്ള സംഗതിയിൽ ഒരു സംഭവത്തെപ്പറ്റി തുറന്ന കൌൺസിലിൽവച്ചു പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുമ്പോൾ ആ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറ് അദ്ധ്യക്ഷന്റെ അനേഷണവും അതിന്മേലുള്ള റിപ്പോർട്ടും ഗവർണ്മെൻറിൽനിന്നും അതുപോലെതന്നെ പൂർണ്ണമായി വിശ്വസിച്ചു പ്രവർത്തിക്കാൻ പാടില്ലാത്തതാണ്.

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MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): May I ask Mr. Kumara Pillai what else Mr. Van Ross could do in a case like this? He went to the spot, took evidence and then he came to the conclusion that the allegations made were unfounded. He took statements from several witnesses. I should like to know what else he could do in a case like this.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): If that is all that the Government can do, then I think nothing can be done in any case at all which may arise.

PRESIDENT: Government can only do what is reasonable.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): This statement was made by Mr. Khadir Pillai even before he had made a statement in this Council.

ചീഫ് സിക്രട്ടറി മിസ്റ്റർ കൃഷ്ണപിള്ള പറയുന്നമാതിരിയുള്ള നയമാണ് ഗവർണ്മെൻറ് സ്വീകരിക്കുന്നതെങ്കിൽ ഇവിടത്തെ പബ്ലിക്കുസർവ്വീസിലെ അഴിമതികൾ കുറഞ്ഞുവരുവാൻ ഒരിക്കലും സാധിക്കുന്നതല്ല. ഇപ്പോൾ ഞാൻതന്നെ ഈ കൌൺസിലിൽവച്ചു പരസ്യമായി ഒരു ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥൻ കൈക്കൂലി വാങ്ങിവരുന്നതായി പറഞ്ഞു എന്നിരിക്കട്ടെ. പിന്നീട വല്ല പ്രേരണാശക്തികളാലും ഞാൻ അതിൽനിന്നു വ്യതിചലിക്കുന്നതായാൽ എന്റെ അപ്രവൃത്തിയെ ഗവർണ്മെൻറിൽനിന്ന് ഒരിക്കലും ബഹുമാനിക്കാൻ പാടില്ലാത്തതാണ്. ഈ സംഗതിയിൽതന്നെ ഒന്നാംതീയതിമുതൽ ഗവർണ്മെൻറിൽനിന്നും ഉപ്പിന്റെ വില കൂട്ടി എന്നും അതുത്തരവു രണ്ടാം തീയതിയെ അവിടെ കിട്ടിയുള്ളു എന്നും അതിനാൽ ഒന്നും രണ്ടും തീയതികളിൽ വിലകൂറച്ചു വിറ്റിട്ടുള്ളതിനെ ശരിയാക്കുന്നതിനുവേണ്ടി കച്ചവടക്കാരോടു ചാക്കിനു ഓരോ രൂപാവീതം കൂടുതൽ വാങ്ങുകയും ആ തുകയെ ഖജനാവിൽ ഒടുക്കുകയും ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നും ഉള്ള സമാധാനങ്ങളാണ് മിസ്റ്റർ വാൻറാസിന്റെ റിപ്പോർട്ടിൽനിന്നും കാണുന്നത്. ഈ സമാധാനങ്ങളെ വിശ്വസിക്കാൻ കാരണങ്ങളൊന്നും കാണുന്നില്ല. പണ്ടകശാലകളിൽനിന്നും ഉപ്പു വില്ക്കുന്നതിൽ നടന്നുവരുന്ന കൈക്കൂലിയെപ്പറ്റി മിസ്റ്റർ കാതർപിള്ള ഗവണ്മെൻറിനേയും എക്സൈസ് കമ്മിഷണരേയും അറിയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള തീയതി ഫാറസ്റ്റ് കമ്മറിയിലെ അന്യോഗസ്ഥസാമാജികന്മാരോടു അല്പവായിൽവച്ചു മിസ്റ്റർ കാതർപിള്ള പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ള തീയതി, ഉപ്പുവില കൂട്ടീട്ടുള്ള തീയതി, ഈ വിവരങ്ങളും അരോടുകൂടി ഒന്നും രണ്ടും തീയതികളിൽ വിറ്റിട്ടുള്ള ഉപ്പുചാക്ക് എത്രയെന്നും അതിലേക്കു കച്ചവടക്കാരോടു ഈടാക്കീട്ടുള്ള തുക എന്താണെന്നും എപ്പോൾ എത്രരൂപാ ഖജനാവിൽ ഒടുക്കീട്ടുണ്ടെന്നുമുള്ള വിവരങ്ങൾ നിശ്ചയംവരുത്തിയതിൽപിന്നീടു മാത്രമേ മിസ്റ്റർ വാൻറാസിന്റെ റിപ്പോർട്ടിനെ

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[President.]

വിശ്വസിക്കാൻ പാടുള്ളൂ. പബ്ലിക്ക് സർവ്വീസിലുള്ള ഇത്തരം അഴിമതികളെപ്പറ്റിയുള്ള പ്രസ്താവനകളിൽ വാസ്തവങ്ങളെ കണ്ടുപിടിക്കാൻ ഗവർമ്മെൻറു നിഷ്കൃഷ്ടയായ നടപടികളും നടത്താതിരിക്കുന്നപക്ഷം പബ്ലിക്ക് സർവീസിൽ കൈക്കൂലികളും വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരുവാനേ തരമുള്ളൂ. ഈ സംഗതിയിൽ ഗവർമ്മെൻറിൽനിന്നും നേരിട്ട് അന്വേഷണം നടത്തണമെന്നതന്നെയാണ് എനിക്കു അഭിപ്രായമുള്ളത്.

PRESIDENT: What was the statement made by Mr. Daniel?

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): It was this: "When we were at Alwaye recently this grievance was brought before us as well."

PRESIDENT: Was that statement made on the same occasion?

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): Yes; that is a very serious matter.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): Sir, this might have arisen from a misconstruction on the part of the merchants. The depôt officer might have been asked to levy a duty at the enhanced rate at a certain date, and the order might have reached only one or two days later.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): May I put him a question?

PRESIDENT: Certainly, you may.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): ഇതേ സംഗതി മിസ്റ്റർ കാതർപിള്ള ആലുവായിൽ ഫ്ാറസ്റ്റു കമ്മിറ്റിക്കായി ഞങ്ങൾ എത്തിയിരുന്നപ്പോൾ ഞങ്ങളുടെ മുമ്പിൽവച്ചു പറഞ്ഞു. ആ വിവരം മിസ്റ്റർ കാതർപിള്ള എക്സൈസ് കമ്മീഷണറേയും അറിയിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. അതിനുശേഷം മിസ്റ്റർ ഡാനിയൽ നിയമസഭയിൽവച്ചു പറയുകയുണ്ടായി. അതിനെപ്പറ്റി എന്തു നടപടി നടത്തി?

PRESIDENT: What are the dates of the two?

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): The date of the Forest Committee can be had from the Conservator of Forests, and the other date from the Excise Commissioner.

PRESIDENT: I daresay the Government will conduct further enquiries.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): I think it is highly necessary. The statement was made publicly.

PRESIDENT: An enquiry was made on the statement made by Mr. Daniel and Mr. Khadir Pillai on that occasion. If further statements are made, further enquiries will be made.

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MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): On the strength of the information received from Alwaye I think further enquiry is necessary.

PRESIDENT: But that was not brought to the notice of the Government before.

Do you press this motion, Mr. Kumara Pillai?

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): I only wanted to bring this matter to the notice of the Government. I withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion 63.

The following motion was not made:

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR:

63. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 52,400 for salt business by Rs. 100.

Motion 64.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I beg to move the following motion:

64. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 99,690 under salt by Rs. 100.

Sir, this motion as stated in the notice given by me, is intended to discuss the question of the separation of the Salt Department from the control of the Excise Commissioner and make it a separate department. I may say at once that my proposal will not entail extra expenditure. Mr. Kumara Pillai has made my task easy by dealing with a part of my motion. I had stated in the course of my speech in the general discussion of the Budget that the statement showing the quantity of salt manufactured in the South Travancore factories during the last ten years, 1089 to 1098, in reply to my interpellation, told its own tale. It is a little bit of a revelation those who run can read. The old factory at Tamarakulam which was manufacturing 1,01,192 maunds in 1089, manufactured only 34,720 maunds in 1097 and 66,522 maunds in 1098. Puttalam which manufactured 1,30,113 maunds in 1089, manufactured only 48,320 maunds in 1098. Colachel which manufactured 36,996 maunds in 1089, manufactured nothing in 1096 and 40⅓ maunds in 1097 and 2,086½ maunds in 1098. Rajakkamangalam which manufactured 95,400 maunds in 1089, manufactured only 1,093 maunds in 1096, 11,676 maunds in 1097, and 28,466 maunds in 1098. The total salt manufactured in 1089, when there were only 7 factories, was 5,39,521 maunds, and when the number of factories was increased to 14, it was only 4,24,155 maunds in 1097 and 5,64,498 maunds in 1098. As seen in the statement, the area under salt cultivation in 1089 was 950·19 acres against 1,211·27 acres in 1098; and while the expenditure under salaries and contingencies for 1089 was Rs. 29,682, it came up to Rs. 47,537 in 1098. I looked back into the report of the Excise administration for 1084 and found that, while the area under cultivation was only 282·73 acres, the total out-turn was 45,836 maunds. The out-turn per acre has also fallen during the last few years. In passing,

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[Mr. A. Hoogewerf.]

it may be stated that there seems to be some serious mistake in regard to the area under cultivation in the statement given to this House, as I find from the administration report of 1098 that the area actually worked as pans is 427·81 and not 1211·27 as given in the statement. It will be seen from the above that, while the expenditure has been almost doubled during the last ten years and the area of cultivation also largely increased, the out-turn has been more or less the same it was fifteen or even twenty years back and the quality of the salt manufactured has also grealy deteriorated. I do not want to go into the several causes that have contributed to the standstill condition of salt manufacture in South Travancore, in spite of increased expenditure and larger area under cultivation. All that I have to say is that these unhappy results have been brought about by the narrow and ungenerous policy pursued by the Department, coupled with a great deal of bungling on the part of those who were and are in charge of it. The old factory at Tamarakulam would have ceased to exist, but for the timely help given to the licensees during the late administration in the way of enhanced *kudivila* recommended by me when I was Acting Excise commissioner. It is useless to go through the chapter of mistakes committed in the Department, year after year, during the last fifteen years or so. Government monopoly in the sale of salt was bad enough; but matters came to a climax when that monopoly was handed over to a single individual for four years together, to compensate, it is said, for some loss supposed to have been sustained by him and prevent his resorting to legal proceedings against the Government. Of course the tax-payers' interest is a minor consideration in all these transactions. The statements made by Messrs. Manmen Mappillai and Khadir Pillai before this House last year about the high prices charged for salt in North Travancore are fresh in our memory. This is the Excise system towards which we are supposed to be working with a vengeance. Something must be done at once to improve matters or even the little we have may vanish after a few years. The multifarious duties devolving on the Excise Commissioner do not allow him to pay the attention that is required for putting the salt branch of the Excise Department on a sound footing and to increase the output of the several factories. We now get only half the quantity of salt required for consumption in the State from our own factories. It is quite possible, with better supervision, and correct knowledge of salt manufacture, that the whole quantity required for the State can be obtained from Travancore itself. Unlike the British Excise Department, the Department here has to look after the tobacco and land and sea customs revenue as well, besides the collection of abkari revenue, about which I shall have to say a few words later on. A great deal has to be done to improve our customs revenue which ultimately with the tobacco revenue will be our mainstay. Our object ought to be not only to make our country self-contained in its salt supply, but also to manufacture salt of the best quality and to sell it to the people at the lowest rate possible. At present

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we have to accept whatever kind of salt is imported here from outside. The answers that we got from the Excise Commissioner when the manufacture of salt was discussed in this Council, would show what a hazy idea he has of salt manufacture and what importance he places on this all-important matter. My proposal is that an officer, preferably one from the Huzur Secretariat, should be deputed to thoroughly study the conditions of salt manufacture in our own factories and then be sent to some of the important factories in Southern India and even Bombay to fully acquaint himself with the manufacture of salt according to the latest methods obtaining there, and introduce the same in Travancore. A young officer of some status with plenty of energy, enthusiasm, imagination and initiative should be chosen for this important work. Salt is used by the king down to the peasant, and I need not say how very necessary it is that it should be pure and as cheap as possible. Our agricultural development also depends on a plentiful supply of this article. No other Indian State is so fortunately situated as ours as regards the facilities for salt manufacture. It will, therefore, be almost a crime if we do not use to the very best the advantages Nature has afforded us. I offer these suggestions for the serious consideration of the members of this Council and of Government.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): The first charge levelled against the Excise Department is the small output of salt in the Tamarakulam factory. This may be answered, I think, in a sentence or two.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I cannot hear.

PRESIDENT: He cannot hear you and so you must repeat what you have said.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): One of the points urged by my friend Mr. Hoogewerf against the Excise Department is the small output of salt in the Tamarakulam Factory. I think this may be answered in a sentence or two. The manufacture of salt depends mainly upon two conditions.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): May I know from the acting Excise Commissioner whether Mr. Hoogewerf complained of the smallness of the output or the decline of the output?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): That may be taken as decline.

The manufacture of salt depends mainly upon two conditions. One is fair weather, that is, continued hot weather, and secondly—

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Am I to understand that during the last twenty years there has been bad weather in the salt factories?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): I am coming to that. The decline refers to the last fifteen years after the opening of the Kodayar Project. Ever after the Kodayar Project, the Manakkudi Lake has become a basin of fresh water. By means of fresh water

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[Mr. K. Govinda Pillai.]

it is impossible to manufacture good salt or to intensify the productivity. It is a common fact well known to all people who have any connection with salt factories.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Then why did the Department multiply the number of factories?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): The small productivity may be increased by adding to the number of factories.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Has it not reduced the density of the water in the reservoir?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): Now we find that there is only fresh water even during the hot weather.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Is not that the result of narrowing the channel and multiplying the number of factories?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): Not so much that. It is mostly due to the Kodayar Project. It has been extended to every corner of Nanjanad and a large surplus of water is collected in the Manakkudi Lake, and therefore there is no room whatever for getting dense brine. The department is now proposing to find out some way of getting dense brine, and if that scheme proves successful, the difficulty will be got over.

Again, for the last two or three years we had adverse weather conditions. Last year there was the cyclone which washed away a greater part of the salt. This year also we had a narrow escape. In 1097 also we had premature and untimely rains and therefore our output was very small. Tuticorin is a place where there is continued hot weather, but in Tamarakulam we have only two broken periods. At Tuticorin they have got nine months of unbroken period. But at Tamarakulam the broken periods may extend each at the most to five months. But for the last three years we had not been getting the advantage of even these five months. We are having only three months' period as can be borne testimony to by my friend Mr. Karayalar. So, the fault of smaller output is not so much due to the Excise Department as to the bad weather conditions and the want of density of the brine water.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): May I know from Mr. Govinda Pillai whether the Public Works Department has carried out all the works required for the supply of good brine to the several factories?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): They have done something in Tamarakulam where they have spent something like Rs. 5,000 or Rs. 6,000. I think a little more work is to be done and when this is done, I am sure, the factory will in a way be restored to its original condition. Similarly, some work

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is being done at Rajakkamangalam and Colachel. But these works are not completed.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): How long is it since these works were commenced?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): Two years.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): How long is it since the supply channel from the sea to the Rajakkamangalam *allom* was constructed? Was it not about 20 years ago that the P. W. D. began this work?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): I have no knowledge of the work done by the Public Works Department twenty years ago. My experience extends only to two years.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): What about the proper brine supply to the Colachel factory?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): For the last two years the Department was working at it. Three-fourths of the work has been done and only one-fourth still remains unfinished. and when this is also done, I hope that dense brine may be obtained and the present Colachel factory may be restored to its original condition.

Sir, one more point. I have already reported to the House that the success of the manufacture of salt depends upon hot weather. It will be worth while stating here that the Variyur factory is the one which gets the least amount of rainfall. The rainfall at Variyur varies from 20 to 25 inches a year. At Tamarakulam it ranges between 30 and 40 inches a year, while at Rajakkamangalam between 40 and 50 inches and at Colachel between 50 and 60 inches a year. If we go towards North Travancore there will be greater rainfall and therefore it will be more unsuited for the manufacture of salt. So we can confine our attention only to South Travancore where the rainfall is far less than what it is in North Travancore.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): May I know whether it is a fact that there has been a steady decline in the manufacture of salt during the past fifteen years?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): The Kodayar Project has worsted our efforts. We are trying to get over the difficulty and if the works are completed we may be able to get at the original figures.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): കൊത യാർപ്രോജക്ടിലെ വെള്ളം എത്തുകൊല്ലമായി ഉപയോഗിച്ചുവരുന്നു.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): ആ തോതിലന്നുണ്ടോ കൊല്ലംവരും.

PRESIDENT: Irrigation did not extend so far at the beginning of the project.

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[Mr. K. Govinda Pillai.]

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalle*) Has any investigation been carried out as yet to know whether dense brine can be got or not?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): We have made proposals.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Has any investigation been actually carried out?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): No.

PRESIDENT: It means a large outlay.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): It will cost about two or three lakhs of rupees. That is from a layman's point of view.

Sir, as regards experts, as far as I know there are no good experts anywhere in Travancore or South India. What we may call at present an expert is a man who might have gone and visited certain factories in South India and who might have collected knowledge of the working system. But the analysis of salt with a view to find out the deleterious elements for the development and intensification of productivity is not within the capacity of the so-called expert whom we can find anywhere in Travancore or South India.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Is there anybody in the salt factory to ascertain the purity of the salt?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): I shall reply the member in a moment. I had an Inspector. While he was in charge of a factory he told me that he could analyse the salt. After some time a College Professor visited the Salt Factory. I asked him why he came there. Then that same Professor told me that he had come there at the invitation of the Inspector who wanted some information. That is how he did his work. Even recently, I have known of an officer in charge of a factory getting the assistance of a certain chemistry student who visited the factory. He was not able to give any information to the officer at his station. As regards the working of the salt factory we have not got a very large laboratory and we have only a few instruments there. I asked the chemistry student whether he could find out what instruments were wanting. He was not in a position to give an answer. That is the case with the present men.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Was there not a small laboratory with chemical instruments for testing salt about fifteen years ago?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): I know there was a small laboratory which was not even worth the name.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): What has become of it?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): There are only a few instruments and we have to supplement them by the

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purchase of a large number of instruments at a great cost and even if we purchase them it is questionable whether our local men will be able to make use of them.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Is the analysis for the purpose of detecting impurities existing in the salt?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): Yes.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I think college students will be able to do it.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): I have tried chemistry graduates and they were not able to do it.

PRESIDENT: I think the analysis is being done. The salt is being examined by the Chemical Examiner.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): From my experience I think that what we call experts are only those people who have experience in the work of the manufacture of salt and if we ask them to do it they can do it without much difficulty, as my friend Mr. Karayalar might be able to bear testimony to my statement. The only man who could be called an expert was Dr. Rattan and he has written a treatise that has become the guide for all the people in the salt factories to follow in regard to the manufacture of salt and that is very freely used by all the men there.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Sir, after hearing Mr. Govinda Pillai's explanation I have been more or less convinced of the need for separating the Salt Department from the Excise and Customs Department. He has been telling us that the analysis of salt with a view to finding out its quality and its impurities is a very difficult matter, that the Department contains no expert who is able to do it, that the Department therefore is not paying any attention to the analysis of salt and that, really speaking, there ought to be some experts who will be able to do it. Now, if this is so, Sir, it is absolutely necessary that special attention should be paid to the manufacture of salt with a view to finding out its impurities and its quality and special attention can be paid only by the establishment of a separate department with experts who know the manufacture of salt and who could conduct the analysis of salt successfully.

PRESIDENT: I think in answer to an interpellation it has already been stated that the salt is being analysed by the Chemical Examiner appointed by the Government.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Mr. Govinda Pillai said nothing of the kind.

PRESIDENT: He only said that no analysis had been done in the factories.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): I think it is necessary that there ought to be a separate factory or laboratory attached to the salt department, and there also ought to be a chemist who will be able to examine from time to time the quality of the salt produced in the factories.

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[Mr. S. Subrahmanya Karayalar.]

There is also another matter which has been brought to light from the speech of the Ag. Excise Commissioner that, since the Kodayar Project, we have not been able to manufacture good salt to the same extent as we have been doing before the project was introduced, for the reason that the water in the Manakkudi lake has become more or less fresh water and therefore the salt density of the water has been considerably reduced; and the acting Excise Commissioner says that it is necessary to investigate a scheme as to whether it is not possible to increase the density of this lake by proper experiments. Now, though the Kodayar Project has been there for the last sixteen or seventeen years, he has told us that no investigation has been made. That is another argument I should think for establishing a separate Department. Of course if the cost is great it is worth while meeting the cost if it would be a success, because we can then manufacture sufficient salt to meet the requirements of the country. It will be a great benefit to the country indeed. Therefore, the fact that they have not been making any investigation in regard to that must also be due, I think, to the fact that it forms only one part of a great department and the department having to distribute its attention over all its branches is not able to concentrate any upon this particular duty. Now, Sir, there can be no doubt that salt is a very important matter and if we can manufacture salt sufficient to meet the requirements of the country it will be a great thing indeed. As it is, the price of salt in Travancore depends upon the price fixed by the British Government; the British Government fixes the price of salt according to the exigencies of their finance, and therefore, the price of salt in Travancore will depend on the financial condition of British India and not on the financial or other conditions in Travancore. If, on the other hand, we are able to manufacture the whole of the salt required for consumption in this country or at least a large portion of it, it will be of great advantage to the State as well as to the people of Travancore. For these reasons, I think that even if it should involve any additional cost it is worth meeting that cost and it is worth while having a separate Department which would bestow its entire attention upon the Department and it should not be permitted to form part of a whole department under an officer who has to scatter his attention upon various items of the revenue of the State. For these reasons I have great pleasure in supporting the motion of Mr. Hoogewerf.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Shencottah*): My object in speaking on this motion is to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that sufficient attention is not being paid by the Excise Department to the ways and means of increasing the manufacture of home salt in the monopoly factories. Of course they pay their attention to effect improvements in old *alloms* like Rajakkamangalam, Colachel and Tamarakulam old factories, leaving the owners of the monopoly factories to take care of themselves. Whatever be the help that might be rendered to the old factories, I am sure the output of salt could

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never be increased unless the system is changed and the licensees are encouraged. Rajakkamangalam and Colachel factories shall never thrive as it is not possible to prevent fresh water percolation.

The out-turn of salt depends essentially upon the conditions of weather and upon the supply of brine. We have no control over the conditions of weather, and unlike the salt factories in the Tinnevelly District, the factories in Travancore are exposed to both monsoons and so it is of paramount importance to secure good brine in order to ensure sufficient quantity of salt for State consumption.

Even in theTamarakulam salt factories where we have the best salt lake in Travancore the manufacturers have the greatest anxiety to get rid of the rain water collected within the factory, and I may inform the House that the coming *Purattasi Pani* may be a failure as the fresh water within the factories may not dry at all before the end of Purattasi 1100, and therefore the idea of some of my friends like Mr. Hoogewerf on this side of the House to construct factories may once for all be given up.

Now coming to the supply of brine, I have no hesitation in asserting that it is possible to secure an adequate supply of brine water for the salt factories in Tamarakulam without any great outlay. I have made several suggestions in the course of my representation in the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly Session of 1097 which aimed at securing a good supply of brine and improving the manufacture of salt. No serious attention has so far been paid to those suggestions. If the present state of lack of interest continues for another three years to come, I respectfully submit to Government and also draw the attention of this House that the salt factories in Travancore will cease to exist and Travancoreans will be forced to beg the British Government for ever for the supply of the most vital necessity of life. As it is not too late to mend matters, I would like to suggest for the consideration of Government the best way of supplying brine to the factories. Now the salt manufacturers at Tamarakulam draw their supply of brine from the Manakkudi lake which for the best part of the year contains water of practically no saline density, as the Pazhayar river, after the Pechiparai dam, has been discharging into the lake a good quantity of fresh water almost all the year round.

I beg to suggest two ways of bettering the condition of brine supply. One is, the Pazhayar river water must be allowed an exit into the sea during the dry weather, say Makaram down to the commencement of the monsoon, by opening a diversion channel at or near the Mission anicut. If this is done the water in the Manakkudi lake during the hot weather will become thicker and will serve as an outer reservoir to the factories. My second suggestion is that arrangements may be made to pump out sea water and supply the same to the lake and the inner reservoirs of the several factories and a small cess may be levied from the manufacturers to cover interest on the outlay. If my suggestions are carried out, Travancore need not go in for foreign salt and will be in a position to supply even the Cochin State.

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[Mr. G. Parameswaran Pillai.]

With regard to the separation of the Salt Department from the Excise Department, I do not agree with Mr. Hoogewerf. It is not necessary to have a separate Department to control the salt factories in South Travancore. What is necessary is that more attention should be paid and some officer may be directed to see that the works required to increase the manufacture of salt are carried out at an early date. As a matter of fact, the salt, that is being manufactured in our factory is good. Even the best salt produced in Tinnevelly and Tuticorin is not as good as the salt manufactured in South Travancore.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) : I also support the motion of Mr. Hoogewerf. Salt manufacture is an important industry. In view of what is being done by the Excise Department towards this industry I submit that it is time to consider some other agency to be engaged for the development of the industry. As for the statement of Mr. Govinda Pillai that it is impossible to analyse the salt produced, I may say that I have to take the statement with a grain of salt. With the little chemistry I have studied some years ago, I assure the House that, after all, it is not a difficult problem to analyse this inorganic salt, as may be seen by the daily experiments performed in the laboratary of the B. A. Class. In view of the languishing interest taken by the Excise Department in tackling the problem, I would even make a suggestion that the whole production of salt may be placed under the Director of Agriculture under whom there are a number of good chemists and who ought to be expected to be to a considerable extent interested in the production of salt. An organisation entirely exclusive and independent may not look very attractive from the standpoint of finance. So I would make a suggestion to take away this department from the Excise Commissioner and place it under the Director of Agriculture, if necessary with a few slight additions to his budget allowance, and try it as a practical problem.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*) : Sir, I also support the motion of Mr. Hoogewerf with this qualification. I agree with him in regard to his observation regarding the further encouragement that we have to give towards the development of home salt. But I am sorry to come to the conclusion that I cannot agree with him in thinking that any good impetus will be given by a mere separation of the two Departments. With a more strict supervision and control than what is now being exercised by the Excise Department the object could be achieved.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*) : I want to bring it directly under the Government.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*) : It means another additional payment to a person with the status of the head of a Department. I am certainly opposed to any further addition to that *cadre* of officers, and I certainly think that even the present Assistant Commissioners' salary *i. e.*, Rs. 325-400—

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PRESIDENT: The salary depends upon the grade.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): At any rate we find here—

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): But the total will be found correct.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): This is the provision made.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Any Officer in that *cadre* may be posted there.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): There are Assistant Commissioners drawing a salary of Rs. 175-400, and any one of these officers might be put in charge of the factory. I should also think that one Senior Assistant Commissioner who was for a long time in charge of the salt factories should be put in there. I do not see any particular virtue in grading another appointment as head of the department in charge of the factory. What is required, it appears to me, is to see that the person, *i.e.*, the Assistant Commissioner who is put in charge of the salt factory, is a competent man able to understand the needs of the country and also that he has sufficient knowledge in regard to the measures to be adopted for the development of the factories. If such a person is put in, there can be no reasonable objection to the salt factories continuing under the control or supervision of one particular head of the department, *viz.*, the Excise Department. As a matter of fact a considerable saving also may be effected. At present the reason that the Excise Commissioner or the person in charge of the Excise Department does not devote adequate attention to this particular branch of the Department is not an argument for separation. It appears to me that this House has only to draw the attention of the Government and the present head of the Department to devote greater attention to this branch of the Department. Further, it has never been said on the other side that the Excise Commissioner is not in a position to cope with the work. No such complaint has come from him also. It has been suggested that competent men—or rather experts in the true sense—are wanted in this particular branch of the Department. If so, further allotments may be made to see that adequate provision is made for the purpose of doing anything that will serve towards the promotion of the salt industry and we do not grudge any expenditure being incurred on that account if on account of the expenditure the result will be further promotion of the industry. We do not underrate the importance of the industry, but what I do certainly object to is the creation of another Department and thereby incurring additional expenditure which may well be devoted towards the promotion of salt industry by providing a good laboratory and by getting down an expert with sufficient knowledge to develop and further the industry. So, I do not see why the Department should be separated, but I would again emphasise the paramount importance or rather the *necessity* to further take up the question in right earnest and

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[Mr. A. Hoogewerf.]

see that the industry is promoted much better than it is now and the Department placed on a more efficient basis.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I shall first answer Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai with regard to the objectjon raised by him against the separation of the Department. I have a bitter experience of playing the second fiddle. I took a great deal of interest in salt manufacture when I was in South Travancore, and though my superior, when he was handing over charge of the Department to me, warned me not to touch the salt papers, *i. e.*, the papers connected with the *kudivila*, which he made me understand was forbidden ground to tread on, I was obliged, under instructions from the Government, to study the whole question first-hand as the Popular Assembly was about to be in session. I made a report recommending the enhancement of *kudivila* which brought me into serious trouble later on. What I want to say is that the second fiddle business can never succeed. What is the use of having an expert, a man who has a thorough knowledge of salt manufacture, when the head of the department does not understand the A B C of it? He will always be putting a spoke in the wheel, and this I speak from experience. That is why I maintain that, for expeditious working and for success, independence and direct responsibility are absolutely necessary for the officer. I say therefore that some smart officer, if possible from the Secretariat, without old-world ideas and not travelling in narrow grooves, but with a free and open mind, should be sent to the British factories to get a thorough knowledge of the manufacture of salt. I do not propose to add one pie to the expenditure already incurred. It is quite possible to appoint this officer by taking away one or two Inspectors from the factories and add their pay to that of this officer, if that is necessary, in effecting this separation.

I must next thank Mr. Govinda Pillai and Mr. Karayalar for the strong case they have made in my favour for the separation. Mr. Govinda Pillai has not touched upon the most important point that I have—

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): I am coming—

PRESIDENT: You may mention it in your reply.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): The Excise Commissioner who has multifarious duties cannot find time to attend to this all-important matter. His duties have been more or less taken up in appointing, disappointing and transferring his subordinates. The matter should be seriously considered.

With regard to the customs duty I have said during the budget discussion that it is gradually going down. So a full-time officer with a thorough knowledge of salt manufacture is necessary for that important work. Mr. Govinda Pillai tried to make us understand that it was useless to have chemistry graduates because they understand nothing and nothing can come out of them. I think it is an insult to the number of chemistry graduates that are being

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turned out year after year from the college if it is said that they cannot analyse this common article of food. Well, if this is so, I do not know what use there is of their knowledge of chemistry. Mr. Stephenson will be able to enlighten Mr. Govinda Pillai on this point. It is a very gloomy picture that Mr. Govinda Pillai has been drawing. He spoke of the supply of brine at the Tamarakulam reservoir and Tamarakulam factories and said that the density of brine had gone down from two and three degrees to one and to nothing. That makes the situation all the more serious.

Mr. Karayalar said that no notice was taken of the several valuable suggestions made by him. That is another case in point in my favour. This argument brought forward by him emphasises the fact that this question ought to be tackled with a serious and open mind. Besides Mr. Karayalar I know several others who have a knowledge of South Travancore have been from time to time making suggestions. I myself made very imortant recommendations in regard to the improvement of salt manufacture in South Travancore. I went to the spot, learnt all the conditions from the licensees and subordinates including Mr. Nilakantan and wrote a long report to Government. But probably it is all buried in the archives of the Huzur or the Excise Commissioner's office! So Mr. Karayalar deserves my warmest thanks for the special pleading that he has made on my behalf in regard to this matter.

The Public Works Department is said to have been doing a number of works during the last fifteen years. I know when I was in charge the P. W. D. was asked to improve the brine channel leading to the Rajakkamangalam *allom*. Evidently it is the same complaint of inaction that is being made to-day. Unless and until there is a proper supply of brine from the sea and the salt beds are properly cleaned and tamped and the reservoirs are supplied with brine and the bars cut open at seasonable times to allow sea water to come in, the manufacture of home salt is very gloomy and may eventually vanish.

My quondam colleague has helped me a great deal for old time's sake in supporting my motion and making my case stronger than before. I therefore strongly recommend that this all-important question should receive the most serious attention of this House. I thank Mr. K. Parameswaran Pillai, Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai and a little bit Mr. G. Parameswaran Pillai also (*laughter*) for advocating this very important cause. I do not—

PRESIDENT: It is time.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Yes, Sir. (*Laughter.*) As the time is up, I am sorry I am not able to say anything more on this question.

PRESIDENT: Have you anything to say, Mr. Govinda Pillai?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): The remark that I made regarding chemistry students is not that there are no chemistry students anywhere in Travancore but that there are no chemistry students available for the purpose in Tamarakulam.

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[Mr. Joseph Panjikaran.]

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Is it a fact that the subordinates use the porcelain cups there for drinking coffee? (*Laughter.*)

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): There are no cups there now. Probably that is the tale of olden days.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Any cup left now?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): No cup whatever left now. (*Laughter.*)

PRESIDENT: Order, please.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): I meant no insult whatever to the chemistry students. What I meant to say was that there were no chemistry students available there.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Is not Mr. Nilakantan a chemistry student?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): He has been there for eleven months. While I was in charge I was able to show an output of five or six lakhs of maunds of salt. This year's output is only three lakhs. It is not the fault of the man who is in charge of the factory. It is due to the weather conditions. My friend Mr. Karayalar will bear testimony to this fact. It does not depend upon the expert but upon the weather conditions.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): May I know whether what Mr. Karayalar said is a fact, *viz.*, that he made various suggessions for the improvement of the salt industry in that locality, but that no attention was paid by the Department?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): Mr. Karayalar does not know that there is correspondence between the Excise Department and the Secretariat. A scheme has been taken in hand and it will be investigated if only the Government will be pleased to do so.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Was the suggestion of Mr. Karayalar taken up by the Excise Department and the scheme submitted to Government?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): Not as a personal proposal. The question of improving the salt factories has been taken up and proposals have been submitted to Government.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): How long is it since the proposal was submitted?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): Probably more or less a month.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Since it was submitted?

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MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): Yes, and even earlier, I believe, the matter has been brought under correspondence. Now it has taken an active turn.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): How far earlier?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): One or two years ago, while I was in charge of the factories, I moved the question, and in response to it, I know the P. W. D. works have been started. The evil is not so much from the Kodayar Project as the percolation from the Kodayar Project. The factories are situated on the side of a river. In Tamarakulam the Pazhayar separates two sets of factories and fresh water from the Pazhayar percolates into the factories. So also at Rajakkamangalam there is the Pannivaikkal, a big brook. The factory is situated on the side of the brook, and the fresh water from the brook percolates into the factory. Similarly the fresh water from the *pamburivaikal* percolates into the Colachel factory. What the P. W. D. has done is to construct ring channels so as to catch fresh water so that it might not percolate into the factories. That work has been done in Colachel and Rajakkamangalam and in the old *allom* at Tamarakulam. Matters have been very much improved now. But much more work remains to be done. When that is done, most probably, we may get a better output of salt.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): May I know whether any investigation has been conducted in regard to the work proposed by Mr. Karayalar and in regard to the scheme?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): There were two or three schemes. One was the diversion of the Pazhayar. That question was referred to the Government, and then it was referred to the P. W. D. who declared that it was not feasible. So it was given up.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): Any other investigation made?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): Yes; there was a proposal to cut a channel from the Manakkudi lake alongside the eastern factories at Tamarakulam. I do not know whether that has been investigated. While I was there I made the proposal and it might have reached the Excise Commissioner's office. Whether anything has been done in response to that recommendation is a matter not known to me now. One important point I have to refer the House to is this. The suggestion for the creation of a separate department has been brought to the notice of the Government more than once in the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly, and it has been discussed more than once there. The question was minutely enquired into, and orders were passed to the effect that it is not quite feasible unless a large amount of money is spent. My reason for opposing the motion is as follows:—

The creation of a separate Salt Department does not appear to be necessary. If the head of the Salt Department is made independent of

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[Mr. K. Govinda Pillai.]

the Excise Commissioner, he will require a separate staff for the maintenance of salt revenue in the taluks where there is scope for the smuggling of salt from outside. There is a large frontier line about Agastisvaram, Tovala, Shencottah and the Cochin frontier where so many new stations will have to be constructed and a large establishment created for guarding the stations. Otherwise, when there is a fall—

PRESIDENT: Mr. K. Paramesvaran Pillai wants to ask a question.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Can the salt manufacture be separated from the Excise, other things still remaining with the Excise Department?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): The salt depôts and salt manufacture are intimately connected, and the one cannot be separated from the other without injury to the other. The salt manufactured at Tamarakulam will have to be transported to Quilon and other places.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): How many cases of salt smuggling from Travancore to Tinnevelly side or from Tinnevelly to Travancore side have taken place during the last twenty years?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): If the member will kindly give notice of the question, I shall be able to answer.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): During the last five years?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): It is not possible to remember all these figures.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Roughly? (*Laughter.*)

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): No, it is not possible.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Has there been a single case during the last five years?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): Not merely a single case. I know that, as a matter of fact, while I was in the Arukutty and Alwaye Circles, there were cases of smuggling of salt five or six years ago.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): When they are doing other work what harm is there?

PRESIDENT: That he has already explained.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): Otherwise when there is a fall in the salt revenue in a frontier taluk the Salt Department will attribute it to the poor preventive work, while the Excise Department, which may not be expected to be so earnest in preventing smuggling as at present, will disown any such responsibility. There will thus be constant friction between the Excise and Salt Departments. Again, there is another important factor. There are some

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combined institutions of salt and customs such as in Trivandrum, Quilon, Shencottah and Munambam, and when the two are separated, separate staff is necessary for each. The creation of a separate Department will thus entail a heavy additional expenditure which, I do not think, in the present financial condition of the State, the Government can afford to bear. Till recently, even in British India, the Salt and Excise Departments were under the same administrative head, and the two were separated only a short time ago. But the conditions in British India are quite different from those obtaining in Travancore. In the former there are no facilities for the smuggling of salt from outside.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Have they to look after the sea and land customs in British India?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): I shall soon finish and come over to that point.

In view of the heavy expenditure involved in the proposal and the complications that are sure to arise therefrom in preventing the smuggling of salt from outside, I submit that the proposal to separate the Salt from the Excise Department is quite ill-advised.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Would it not be possible to transfer a portion of the staff from the Excise Department to the other department?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): The present staff is fully engaged in the prevention of smuggling of tobacco and customs revenue. There is no separate staff for the prevention of smuggling of salt.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): So, no care is being taken of the salt manufacture?

PRESIDENT: Not manufacture. He is talking of the smuggling and the control of the frontier.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): If a big log of timber is being taken away through the chowkey without paying the dues, cannot the Excise Department stop it?

PRESIDENT: I do not know how the question is relevant. You mean the customs duty?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): All the dues they may have to pay.

PRESIDENT: Do you mean that the Forest Department is not realising the dues? How are the Excise people to know?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Yes; they have to produce the receipt issued from the Forest Department.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): After the abolition of the tariff duty on timber the Excise people do not care very much for the duty on timber. I know there was a multiplicity of correspondence between the Forest Department and the Excise Department. Finally there was a Government Order asking the Department not to permit the export of timber without permit from the Forest Department.

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[Mr. A. Hoogewerf.]

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): It is not quite clear to me. I do not see why, if the Department is separated, the present staff which prevents smuggling at the frontier should not continue to do so.

PRESIDENT: They will be under two heads of departments. The control will be divided and efficiency would suffer.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Within the State it might be divided.

PRESIDENT: Then they will be under dual control as Mr. Govinda Pillai has been saying; that would lead to interdepartmental friction.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): As regards the keeping of a separate staff, the present Assistant Commissioner is as good as the head of a department. He has been given full powers to propose schemes for the development of the salt factories; whenever such schemes or proposals are made the Excise Commissioner repairs to the spot and examines the soundness of the scheme, and makes the necessary recommendations to carry out his views. Even if a separate officer is placed as the head of that Department I do not know whether he can do anything more.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): With reference to the alleged smuggling, I wish to know whether there is any difference in the duty on salt so far as Cochin or British India is concerned or whether there is any difference in the price in the adjoining States with regard to the price of salt?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): On the frontier side the British salt is sold at a price less than ours. Unless we have a staff in the frontier to prevent smuggling of the salt from the British side, the people will go and buy there. It is for that purpose that we have got a staff on the frontier. As regards the Cochin side the Bombay salt is sold there. We are also therefore compelled to get Bombay salt for the taluks of Alangad, Parur, Kunnatnad and Muvattupuzha in order to prevent smuggling from Cochin side. If we send Tuticorin salt or Tinnevelly salt, the Bombay salt will be preferred by the people and it will get into the Travancore territory and impair our revenue. It is therefore that we are always stocking sufficient quantity of Bombay salt at the Munambam depôt, to keep out the Cochin salt.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I draw your attention, Sir, to the time-limit?

PRESIDENT: Mr. Govinda Pillai is replying to questions. When questions are put to him he is expected to answer them.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I beg to withdraw the motion as I only wanted to bring this matter to the notice of the Council and the Government.

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PRESIDENT: I take it that the Council accepts the withdrawal of the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motions 65 to 79.

The following motions were not moved:—

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR:

65. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 99,690 under Salt by Rs. 100.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI:

66. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,600 for travelling allowances of officers by Rs. 750.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR:

67. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,000 for purchase of instruments by Rs. 500.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

68. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 13,000 for equipment and clothing by Rs. 5,000.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI:

69. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 13,000 for equipment and clothing by Rs. 1,000.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI:

70. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 13,000 for equipment and clothing by Rs. 1,000.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI:

71. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,800 for transport of opium and ganja by Rs. 600.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI:

72. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 39,950 under Commissioner by Rs. 100.

MR. M. N. PILLAI:

73. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 39,950 under Commissioner by Rs. 100.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR:

74. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 26,170 for establishment by Rs. 100.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

75. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 10,000 for travelling allowances by Rs. 1,000.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI:

76. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,500 for rewards by Rs. 1,400.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI:

77. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,500 for rewards by Rs. 500.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

78. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 45,895 for Division Offices by Rs. 1,000.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI:

79. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 35,430 for Range Inspectors by Rs. 660.

Motion 80.

PRESIDENT: We are at motion No. 80. There are three identical motions to reduce the allotment for establishment under Excise. Yours is the first Mr. Hoogwerf. You may move the motion and the other gentlemen may speak on it.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I beg to make the following motion:—

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[Mr. A. Hoogewerf.]

80. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,63,664 under establishment by Rs. 14,630.

(The pay of the additional staff for introducing the independent shop system in North Travancore.)

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): In spite of a very strong case that was made against the creation and the retention of the Sub-Inspectors, it is a matter for extreme regret that this House has been sanctioning the grant for the last two years under this head. I need not say to the members of this House that they should not vote in favour of grants asked by heads of departments without giving due weight to the matter of wasteful expenditure of public funds. The reasons brought forward against the appointments of Sub-Inspectors by some of the leading members of this House are probably fresh in the minds of most of us. When the new arrangement was about to be made, I, personally and by letters, representented to the Dewan the utter folly of appointing this set of officers. He was kind enough to give me a patient hearing and promised me that, if I could convince Mr. Van Ross in his presence that these officers were not necessary, he would not sanction their appointment. I went to Mr. Van Ross's bungalow and informed him of my conversation with the Dewan. He courteously received me and asked me to state the defects in the proposed arrangement and my proposals in regard to the reorganisation. I explained the whole matter and told him that it was not any new proposal that I was making, but only requesting him to go back on the old arrangement of Divisions, Circles, Ranges and parties. He agreed with what I said, but subsequently altered his attitude and said that, as he had to administer the Department, his scheme must be sanctioned, and if it could not be, he was prepared to resign. When I knew his mentality I tried to bow out of an unpleasant situation. But when I was coming away, he assured me that, at the end of the year, he would do away with the Sub-Inspectors. The whole matter appeared to be a question of personal prestige which had to be maintained at the sacrifice of the tax-payer's money. The prophecy that was made that there would be a 'pull Baker pull Devil' tug between the Range Inspectors and the Sub-Inspectors has, more or less, come to pass in certain Ranges. It has greatly tended to divide responsibility and shirk work. The appointment was created because of the absolute ignorance of the spirit and letter of the excise administration and the Regulation and Rules guiding the same.

PRESIDENT: What has all this to do with the motion?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I am coming to the subject of the motion.

The Sub-Inspector was appointed mostly with the object of making house-searches. It was forgotten at the time, both by the Excise Commissioner and the Government, that house-searches could only be conducted with a warrant except on very emergent cases. The Abkari

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Regulation is one which mostly affects the lower classes, and the hard clause of the presumption of guilt is mitigated and safeguarded by the provision for obtaining a search-warrant.

PRESIDENT: May I draw your attention to the fact that strictly there are only five minutes more for the lapse of time for this demand?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): When a case is detected it is being investigated by a superior officer, *viz.*, the quondam Circle Officer or, as he is known in British India, the Circle Inspector, and not by a Range Inspector as is being done now. The Regulation as it stands now empowers an abkari officer drawing Rs. 20 and above to conduct house-searches without a warrant, and the new appointment, even on that ground, is not at all necessary as a very large number of Petty Officers are drawing Rs. 20 and above. The statement given to the House last year will show that Petty Officers have been conducting house-searches. As I stated before, the Sub-Inspector is only an enlarged Petty Officer, as a very large percentage of the appointments has been made from the Petty Officers' grade. From the statements given to this House it is seen that this set of officers also is following the illegal practice of conducting a large number of house-searches *sans ceremonie* without warrants and Government are in a great way responsible for letting loose these low-paid officers to encroach upon the liberty of the people. The Administration Report of last year speaks for itself in regard to the work done by the officers of the Department. Most of the Assistant Commissioners in charge of Divisions are taken to task for the poor detection work both on their part and on the part of their staff. It is true that there has been increase in the number of cases in two divisions which have partly saved the situation; but it is not seen from the report who detected these cases. I know, as a matter of fact, most of the abkari cases come under illicit tapping and illicit possession of toddy by tappers. These cases can be detected not only by Petty Officers but by peons also, as tappers usually keep their toddy in an open place, mostly in tapping *topes*. The statement showing the amount of work done by Sub-Inspectors from the 1st Tulam, 1098, to the 1st Mithunam of the same year speaks for itself. It would be seen from it that several Sub-Inspectors have not detected a single case of illicit distillation, while many others have detected only one, two or three cases each. The quantity of tobacco seized went down from 9,000 and odd lbs. in 1097 to 3,000 and odd lbs. in 1098. The customs export revenue has also fallen by over one and a half lakhs. This year also there has been a large fall. I am informed that a big fall would have occurred under recovery of abkari rentals last year but for the fact that a large portion of the shop rentals, which should have been adjusted only at the close of the contract of this year, was adjusted last year and the majority of the shops was working without any security for a few months. Thus it is seen that the Sub-Inspectors have not justified their existence even on this score. The whole defect of the administration—

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[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

PRESIDENT: Mr. Hoogewerf, may I request you to speak on the proposition?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*). I am just coming to it, Sir. (*Laughter.*)

PRESIDENT: You have only one minute more.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Most of the other speakers have exceeded the time-limit.

PRESIDENT: That may be, but I am not going to allow you more than one minute.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Unless I explain all the facts—

PRESIDENT: Facts may be mentioned briefly by summarising.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): A number of important Ranges are now placed under Sub-Inspectors. I have a great deal more to say on these points, but it is not possible to compress into a few minutes what has to be said in two or three hours. The proposal is only to bring Parur, Shertallai and Vaikam under the independent shop system. Now we have in every Range a sufficient number of Inspectors to deal with the whole question. I have been myself in charge of these taluks when I was Assistant Commissioner. I know exactly what the situation there is. There is absolutely no necessity at all for any further staff. If there is any necessity at all, two or three Inspectors from other places may be drafted to these taluks. As I was trying to explain, the whole difficulty is because of the fact that the Sub-Inspector has taken the place of the Inspector in important Ranges. Until the Inspectors go back to these Ranges and the Petty Officers and the peons are given proper places it is useless to appoint Sub-Inspectors. We will be continuing to travel in a vicious circle. I have a great deal more to say, but since you say, Sir, the time is up, I have to sit down.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): കുന്നത്തുനാട്, പറവൂർ മുതലായ വടക്കൻ താലൂക്കുകളിൽ ൧൧൦൦-ാമാണ്ടു ചിങ്ങമാസം മുതൽ Independent shop system ഏർപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതുകൊണ്ട അതിലേക്കു പുതുതായി കുറെ ആളുകളെ നിയമിക്കുന്നതിലേക്കായി പതിനായിരത്തിൻപരം രൂപാ ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തീട്ടുള്ളതിനെ അനുവദിക്കാൻ പാടില്ലെന്നുള്ള മി. ഹൂഗെർഫിന്റെ അഭിപ്രായത്തോടു ഞാൻ പൂർണ്ണമായി യോജിക്കുന്നു. ഇപ്പോൾതന്നെ സമയം അതിക്രമിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ട ഈ സംഗതിയെപ്പറ്റി വിസ്തരിച്ചു സംസാരിക്കാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാതിരിക്കുന്നു.

ഇതിൽ എനിക്കു പ്രധാനമായി പറവാനുള്ളത് മിസ്റ്റർ. വാൻറാസിന്റെ ഭരണകാലത്തു ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകൾ അമിതമായി വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് പുതിയ നിയമങ്ങളാൽ വീണ്ടും അവയെ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ലെന്നാണ്.

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൧൯൨-ൽ എക്സൈസ് റേഞ്ചുകളിലെ ചില്വു ൬,൭൪,൨൯൫ രൂപായായിരുന്നതു ൧൯൩-ൽ ൬,൮൫,൪൦൦ രൂപായായി വർദ്ധിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. അതായതു മൂന്നു വർഷങ്ങൾകൊണ്ട് ൯൨,൨൬൫ രൂപാ വർദ്ധിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. എന്നാൽ മിസ്റ്റർ. വാൻറാസ് ൧൯൩-അവസാനത്തിൽ എക്സൈസ് ഭരണം കയ്യേറ്റുകയും ൧൯൨-ൽ റേഞ്ചുകളിലെ ചില്വു ൫,൨൭,൮൭൯ രൂപായായി വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരികയും ചെയ്തിരിക്കുന്നു. അതായത് ഒരു വർഷത്തെ ഭരണംകൊണ്ടുതന്നെ റേഞ്ചുകളിലെ ചില്വിൽ നൂറ്റിനാല്പത്തൊമ്പതിനായിരം രൂപാ വർദ്ധിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള വർദ്ധനകൊണ്ടു തൃപ്തിപ്പെടാതെയാണ് ൧൯൨൦-ാമാണ്ടത്തെ ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ റേഞ്ചുകളിലെ ചില്വിനെ ൬,൯൫,൪൦൦ രൂപായായി വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കണമെന്നാവശ്യപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുള്ളതു്. ഈ കണക്കിൻപ്രകാരം മിസ്റ്റർ. വാൻറാസിന്റെ ഭരണത്തിൽ ൧൯൨-ൽ നിന്നും ൧൯൨൦-ാമാണ്ടിൽ എത്തിയപ്പോഴേക്കും ൩൦,൯൯൦ രൂപാ വർദ്ധിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു.

റേഞ്ചുകളിലെ ശമ്പളച്ചില്വുകൾ ഇങ്ങനെ വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതിനു യോജിപ്പായ വിധം എക്സൈസു ഇനത്തിലെ വരവു വർദ്ധിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടോ എന്നു പരിശോധിക്കുന്നതായാൽ വളരെ ഇച്ഛാഭംഗത്തിനാണ് ഇടയുള്ളതു്. ൧൯൨-ൽ ൫൬,൭൫,൭൩൫ രൂപാ വരവുണ്ടായിരുന്നതു ൧൯൨൦-ൽ എത്തിയപ്പോൾ ൫൬,൨൬,൯൦൦ രൂപായായി കുറയുകയാണ് ചെയ്തിരിക്കുന്നതു്. അതായതു മൂന്നു വർഷങ്ങൾകൊണ്ടു നൂറ്റിനാല്പത്തൊമ്പതിനായിരം രൂപാ വരവിൽ കുറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ സ്ഥിതിയിലാണ് റേഞ്ചുകളിലെ ശമ്പളച്ചില്വുകളെ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിലേക്കായി വീണ്ടും കൂടുതൽ രൂപാ വേണമെന്നാവശ്യപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുള്ളതു്. എക്സൈസ് ഇനത്തിലെ വരവു കുറഞ്ഞുവരുന്നോറും റേഞ്ചുകളിലെ ചില്വുകൾ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കണമെന്നുള്ള നയം ഒരിക്കലും അനുവദിക്കാൻ പാടില്ലാത്തതാണ്.

ഇതിനും പുറമെ മൂവാറ്റുപുഴ, തൊടുപുഴ, ഈ താലൂക്കുകളിൽ Independent shop system ഏർപ്പെടുത്തിയ കാലത്തു പുതുതായി ആളുകളെ നിയമിക്കയൊ അതിലേക്കായി ശമ്പളച്ചില്വുകളെ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കയൊ ചെയ്തിട്ടില്ലാത്തസ്ഥിതിക്കു റേഞ്ചുകളിലെ ശമ്പളച്ചില്വുകൾ അമിതമായി വർദ്ധിച്ചു വന്നിട്ടുള്ള ഈ കാലത്ത് അതിലേക്ക് ആവശ്യമുള്ളതായി ഞാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നില്ല.

വൈക്കം, ചേർത്തല, കുന്നത്തുനാട്, പറവൂർ ഈ താലൂക്കുകളിലാണ് ഇപ്പോൾ Independent shop system നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്താൻ നി

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[Mr G. Paramesvaran Pillai.]

ശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളത്. ഈ താലൂക്കുകളിൽ ഏർപ്പെടുത്താൻ നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള കള്ളുഷാപ്പുകളുടെ എണ്ണം ൪൦൦ൽ പരമായിരിക്കുമെന്നാണ് ഞാൻ അറിയുന്നത്. ഇങ്ങനെ ഏർപ്പെടുത്തുന്ന കള്ളുഷാപ്പുകളെല്ലാം ചാരായഷാപ്പുകളുടേയും കറുപ്പ്, കഞ്ചാ ഈ ഷാപ്പുകളുടേയും അടുത്താണ് സ്ഥാപിക്കുന്നത്. അങ്ങനെ വരുമ്പോൾ ഇപ്പോൾ അവിടെയുള്ള ചാരായം, കറുപ്പ്, കഞ്ചാവു ഈ ഷാപ്പുകളുടെമേൽ പരിശോധനകൾക്കും അവിടെനിന്നുമുള്ള പണപ്പിരിവുകൾക്കും ഇപ്പോൾ തന്നെ ഈ താലൂക്കുകളിൽ റേഞ്ചുഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരും ഒട്ടവളരെ കീഴ് ജീവനക്കാരും ഉള്ളതാണ്. മറ്റു താലൂക്കുകളിൽ ഇപ്പോൾ നടത്തിവരുന്നതുപോലെ ഇവിടേയും കള്ളുഷാപ്പുകളുടെ മേൽവിചാരംകൂടി വഹിക്കാൻ ഇവക്കു പ്രയാസമില്ലാത്തതാണ്. ഈ താലൂക്കുകളിൽതന്നെ Farming system പ്രകാരം ഇപ്പോൾ ൪൦൦ കള്ളുഷാപ്പുകളും അതിൽ ഓരോ ഷാപ്പുകളുടേയും അധീനതയിൽ രണ്ടും മൂന്നും സബ്ഷാപ്പുകളും ഉള്ളതുകളുടെ മേൽ പരിശോധനകൾക്ക് ഇപ്പോൾ റേഞ്ചിലുള്ള ആളുകൾ മതിയാകുമെങ്കിൽ Independent shop system ഏർപ്പെടുത്തിയതിൽ പിന്നീട് അതിലേക്കു സാധിക്കാതെ വരുന്നതിനുള്ള വിഷമങ്ങൾ എന്താണെന്നറിയുന്നില്ല. ഈ കാരണങ്ങളാൽ പുതുതായി കുറെ ജീവനക്കാരെ നിയമിക്കുന്നതിലേക്കു ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ ചേർത്തിട്ടുള്ള ₹൪൭൫൦ രൂപ അനുവദിക്കാൻ പാടില്ലെന്നു ഞാൻ അഭിപ്രായപ്പെടുന്നു.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I also beg to support the motion. The independent shop system has been tried elsewhere and it has not been found necessary to appoint additional staff. Now very little has been made out in the way of necessity for granting additional staff in the case of the taluks where it is proposed to introduce the independent shop system. If, as a matter of fact, the present staff finds difficulty to cope with the situation, it is open to the Excise Department after sometime to come up for a supplementary grant. Now it may be that the present staff could manage with the work successfully even after the independent shop system is introduced in the taluks in question. Before trying with the existing staff, this House cannot be called upon to grant this particular amount.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): Sir, my friend Mr. Hoogewerf has brought into prominence the existence of Sub-Inspectors in the Department now. This has become a thorny problem for the Department to solve. I think I am able to place before the Council reasons for supporting—

PRESIDENT: That is not relevant to the motion before the House.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): We want only the reasons for the entertainment of thadditional staff.

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MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): That also, I will come to.

PRESIDENT: The question of Sub-Inspectors is not relevant to the motion before the House. You need speak only on the necessity for the additional staff.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): The staff proposed is intended to cope with the additional work consequent upon the introduction of the independent shop system in the Aryad *pakuthi* of the Ambalapuzha taluk and in the taluks of Shertallai, Vaikam, Kunnatnad and Parur.

In the first place, I have to point out that the existing staff in the Arukutty and Alwaye Divisions and in that portion of the Alleppey Division where the vend rent system now prevails cannot cope with the additional work consequent on the extension of the independent shop system to those tracts. In the reorganisation of the Department effected in 1098, the staff in the various divisions of the State was reduced to the lowest possible limit. The staff now sanctioned to the Arukutty and Alwaye Divisions represents the bare minimum number of men required for guarding the frontier and for performing the various duties needed for maintaining the customs and tobacco revenue of the State. They have to perform night patrol for the prevention of smuggling, besides doing also sentry duty at night at the stations to which they are attached. If they are burdened with abkari work also, they will not be able to do either the one or the other satisfactorily, and in consequence both duties will be neglected.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I ask whether there is no staff at present to do these abkari duties?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): No.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): ഈ കള്ള് ഷാപ്പുകളെ ആരാണ് പരിശോധിക്കുന്നത്?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): There is no necessity. All the shops are under one contractor for the whole taluk. He can tap any number of trees as he wants.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): Is the number of shops fixed?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): Yes.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): Is there any body to check the number of shops?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): That is not very difficult. That will not take much time.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Will the member be pleased to state how many Inspectors, Sub-Inspectors and Petty Officers are there in Parur Range, Alangad, Muvattupuzha, Vaikam and so on?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): I shall give the details about the staff now existing and the staff required.

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[Mr. K. Govinda Pillai.]

PRESIDENT: Do you propose to give them now? You should not exceed the time-limit.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): If I am not interrupted, I will give the whole detail in five or six minutes.

With the introduction of the independent shop system, the trees licensed for each shop have to be marked, the tapping *topes* and shops have to be regularly inspected and the kist and the tree tax due from the several shop-keepers have to be promptly collected. Additional staff is quite essential for the performance of all these duties.

It is also imperative that the staff to be provided should be adequate in view of the peculiar physical features of the tract comprising the Arukutty and Alwaye Divisions. In the Arukutty Division, the soil is sandy, and locomotion being over heavy sand with practically no roads, patrol and inspection work would be extremely difficult. A good portion of the Alwaye Division is interspersed with canals or sheets of water which prevent easy and free movement from place to place. A sufficient number of men is therefore necessary so that each unit may have only a manageable area assigned to it.

Another important point to be considered in fixing the additional staff required is that the staff necessary for properly working the system should be provided at the very commencement. Unless an adequate staff is sanctioned, it will not be possible to work the system strictly and properly in those tracts. Slackness in working the system at the commencement will lead to the spread of malpractices which it will be very difficult to eradicate later on. In order that the independent shop system may be successfully introduced and established, it is essential that shopkeepers should not be allowed at the very outest to indulge in illicit sales, illicit tapping and other irregularities. Once they acquire irregular habits, it will not be easy to get them to unlearn such methods. I submit therefore that the grant of adequate staff for these new tracts should not be withheld by the Council.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): What is the anticipated revenue from the introduction of the independent shop system in these taluks?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): I am just coming to that.

I may also point out that it is estimated that in 1100 there will be an increase of about Rs. 77,000 over the current revenue by the extension of the independent shop system to the tracts mentioned above. But the rentals now fetched cannot but be taken as the minimum rentals realisable from the shops owing to the diffidence felt by the bidders for want of definite information regarding the value of each shop.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): How many shops are there in these taluks?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): Four hundered and four.

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MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): How many sub-shops are there?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): There is no system of sub-shops. The number of shops that we are going to introduce is only 404.

The experience of the Department has been that, at the auction sales succeeding the introduction of the independent shop system, when the present purchasers will be in a position to arrive at a correct valuation of the shops, there will be brisk competition. I can confidently assert that there will, therefore, be a further appreciable increase in the rentals at the next auction sales. The revenue under tree tax also will show a substantial increase with the successful suppression of illicit practices. I would therefore earnestly request the House to pass the demand in view of the large increase in revenue and of the immense benefit accruing to the public from the introduction of the new system from an ethical point of view.

The total additional staff proposed consists of 6 Sub-Inspectors, 22 Petty Officers and 75 peons. When distributed among the Ranges, it will be found that only the minimum number of men required are allowed. I shall now deal with each Range separately.

As I have already pointed out, the staff now sanctioned is solely engaged in the preventive work connected with customs and tobacco revenue. There are practically no men for abkari work. It is essential for the successful introduction and satisfactory working of the independent shop system that an adequate staff should be appointed so that malpractices may be successfully put down with a strong hand from the very commencement. I again repeat that it will be very difficult to eradicate later on malpractices when once they have taken root. I would earnestly appeal to the House to consider this aspect of the question also before voting. Having regard to the foregoing facts and close proximity of the tract in question to a great length of the Cochin frontier, the staff proposed is the minimum consistent with efficiency. Out of deference, however, to the wishes of the Dewan, Mr. Van Ross and myself once again examined the question minutely with a view to see whether any reduction was possible. We found that any reduction in the staff already proposed would affect efficiency to a certain extent, but impelled by the keen desire to keep the expenditure at the lowest possible minimun, we have agreed to a few reductions though with serious misgivings.

MR T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): Is it a good policy?

PRESIDENT: He will be very glad to reduce the whole staff. But is it possible?

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): What is the reduction?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): About Rs. 2,700 a year, or Rs. 225 per month.

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[Mr. K. Govinda Pillai.]

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): We would like to hear the scale of pay of the reduced staff.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): I am coming to that. However, I cannot but point out that the men will be strained to the utmost and very likely my chief may have to appear before the House, shortly after the trial, for a supplementary grant in 1100, in case the men appointed find it difficult to discharge their duties up to expectations and the maintenance of abkari revenue is threatened through lack of sufficient number of men.

Now I shall with your permission proceed to give the reductions proposed and the additional strength of the staff required for each Range and party. The additional staff proposed for the Aryad party in the Alleppey division is only one Petty Officer and two peons. A part of the Aryad division is included in the Ambalapuzha division and Ambalapuzha division is included in the Alleppey division and Alleppey division forms a part of the Shertallai taluk.

In view of the shifting sandy nature of the area and of the necessity to constantly inspect the tapping *topes* and detect illicit distillation, etc., no reduction in this staff is possible without seriously affecting Government revenue and giving rise to all kinds of illicit practices.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Is it in Aryad alone?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): No. The staff proposed to be reduced is one 4th grade peon, one 4th grade Petty Officer and one 5th grade peon. That is all.

Then about Arukutty division and Shertallai Range. According to the proposal already made to the Government, this range which comprises an area of 64·04 square miles of loose sand is divided into four parties. The *pakuthies* of Vayalar west and east are included in the range. After a very careful consideration a slight redistribution of *pakuthies* is found possible. Vayalar, west and east, with an area of 15·08 sq. miles are taken away from the Shertallai Range and included in the Turavur party of the newly proposed Veluttulli Range and the number of parties is reduced from four to two.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Are there no roads in Shertallai? (*Laughter.*)

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): Very few. Practically none. (*Laughter.*) The area of the Shertallai Range will then be 48·96 sq. miles. In view of the heavy work the Inspector will have to do in connection with the prosecution of the cases which will be numerous relating to both Shertallai and Veluttulli Ranges and also of the peculiar physical features of the locality which render it very difficult to traverse from one place to another, the area will be ample for an Inspector. The parties will be (1) Shertallai party comprising the *pakuthies* of Shertallai north and south and Kokotamangalam which

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will be placed directly under the Inspector, the total area being 17·73 sq. miles, and (2) Mararikkulam party comprising Tannirmukkam south and north and Mararikkulam north pakuthies, the total area being 31·33 sq. miles which will be placed under a Sub-Inspector. There is at present no Sub-Inspector at Tannirmukkam, but by constituting Veluttulli into a range, the Sub-Inspector who is now in charge of the Veluttulli party becomes available and he may be posted to Mararikkulam party. These changes will result in a saving of one Sub-Inspector on Rs. 35, one Petty Officer on Rs. 15 and 5 peons 2 (10) & 3 (9)—or Rs. 97 per month. But, as will be observed from the above, the jurisdiction of the party directly under the Inspector—that is, Shertallai party—having been increased, the staff sanctioned to that party requires a slight strengthening by the addition of a peon on Rs. 11. Similarly the Mararikkulam party has to be strengthened by the addition of 2 peons on Rs. 11 and 10, respectively. The net saving on account of the redistribution comes thus to Rs. 65 per mensem.

The reasons for the creation of a new Range with Veluttulli as headquarters have already been given. There will be three parties in this Range as first proposed, *viz.*, (1) Nerekadavu party under a Sub-Inspector as at present; (2) Arur party directly under the Inspector; and (3) Turavur party under a Sub-Inspector as at present with Vayalar east and west added to it. The jurisdiction of the Turavur party having been increased by the addition of Vayalar east and west, the staff of the party is to be increased by the addition of a Petty Officer on Rs. 20 and two peons on Rs. 12 and 10 each from the savings pointed out above, the net saving being Rs. 23 per mensem.

No reduction is possible in the Vaikam Range and what is asked for in the original proposal is the minimum required consistently with efficiency.

In the Alwaye Division also a slight redistribution of parties is proposed and the possible reductions are shown below.

Kunnatnad Range (178·57 sq. miles) is divided into four parties. By a redistribution of *pakuthies*, the number of parties is reduced from 4 to 3 by the abolition of the Vazhakkulam party, *i.e.*, (1) The Perumbavur party will go directly under the Inspector; (2) the Cheranallur party under a Sub-Inspector; and (3) the Mamala party under another Sub-Inspector. These changes result in a saving of one Sub-Inspector (Rs. 35) one Petty Officer (Rs. 15) and 5 peons 2 (Rs. 10) and 3 (Rs. 9), or Rs. 97 per mensem. The Inspector's party area having been increased, his staff requires strengthening by the addition of two peons on Rs. 9 each. In the proposal noted above, an additional Petty Officer on Rs. 15 is provided. This Petty Officer should be of a higher grade so that when he makes inspection of tapping *topes*, etc., independently of the Inspector, he may exercise better control over the peons. It is therefore proposed to substitute a Petty Officer on Rs. 20 for the Petty Officer on Rs. 15. The net saving thus comes to Rs. 74 per mensem.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I point out that we shall be satisfied with the net result?

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[Mr. K. Govinda Pillai.]

PRESIDENT: The net result has been already stated.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): We shall be satisfied with that.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): May I know whether the independent shop system was introduced elsewhere?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): Yes.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): May I know whether they were able to work properly?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): Seven officers and 20 peons are insufficient.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): മുവാറ്റുപുഴ, തൊടുപുഴ, ഈ താലൂക്കുകളിൽ ഇൻഡിപ്പെൻഡൻറ് ഷാപ്പ് സിസ്റ്റം ഏതു ആണ്ടിലാണ് ഏർപ്പെടുത്തിയതു?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): I think it was in 1096.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): The only information that we want is, when was the independent shop system introduced in Muvattupuzha and whether any additional staff was entertained.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): If the member will please wait for five minutes I will be able to satisfy him. (*Laughter.*)

In this connection, I beg to bring to the notice of the House that no additional staff was sanctioned when the taluks of Muvattupuzha and Todupuzha were brought under the independent shop system in 1096. During the reorganisation in Tulam, 1098, Todupuzha Range was abolished and the taluk was placed under the control of the Inspector, Muvattupuzha, as proposed by my chief in his anxiety to cut down expenditure in conformity with the wishes of the House. There is not much of customs work in the two taluks and the staff is mainly engaged in the prevention of smuggling of tobacco and other dutiable articles. It was hoped that we should be able to manage with the present staff. But experience has now shown that this staff finds it very difficult to cope with the additional work. There is much scope for the improvement of the abkari revenue in these taluks consequent on the extensive *pudubal* registry and the settlement of people on the hills which a short time ago were unoccupied. The occupants, being mostly of the labouring class, take to drinking and unless the staff is sufficiently strengthened, malpractices cannot be successfully put down and the abkari revenue maintained.

PRESIDENT: Has any additional staff been sanctioned?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): No. The present Division Officer has recommended the appointment of an additional staff.

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MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): Is the statement made by Mr. Hoogewerf, that no additional hands were appointed at the time of the introduction of the independent shop system, correct?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): Yes. It is because of the recommendations received from the officer in charge of the Piravam Circle that an additional staff is applied for.

PRESIDENT: I am afraid this must close. Will you please allow him to complete?

Mr. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): No, we will be satisfied with this.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Kumara Pillai says that he is satisfied. But have you finished, Mr. Govinda Pillai?

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): A little more; I will finish soon.

The jurisdiction of the Muvattupuzha Range Inspector is too extensive and he finds it very difficult to do his work satisfactorily. It is therefore extremely necessary in the interest of Government to constitute the Todupuzha taluk into a separate range under an Inspector as before, and the additional men required are six officers, one Inspector, one Petty Officer and four peons.

PRESIDENT: That is not the question now. They want to know what the present staff at Muvattupuzha and Todupuzha is.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*): Nobody wanted to know that. For these reasons I beg to oppose the motion.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencottah*): Before I proceed I should like to explain the system that is now prevalent. According to the present system we have got independent arrack shops. The present contractor has no limit in regard to the large number of toddy-yielding trees we have there. He could tap any number of trees without paying tree tax.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Govinda Pillai has already explained it.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencottah*): Under the new system, the greater the number of trees the larger the revenue. In my opinion, as I was the contractor of those taluks, unless a sufficient staff is appointed, there is no possibility of collecting the Government revenue. It appears to me that taking advantage of this, the toddy shop-keepers and the arrack shop-keepers will not find sale in their shops, and in the next auction sale the Government will lose their revenue unless this illicit distillation is stopped. Therefore I am of opinion that a certain staff will be required to have an effective control over illicit distillation and illicit tapping.

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[Mr. A. Hoogewerf.]

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I must again thank Mr. Govinda Pillai for the straightforward answer he gave to some of my brethren on this side of the House with regard to the extra staff which was not appointed at the time the independent shop system was introduced into the taluks of Muvattupuzha and Todupuzha.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Hoogewerf, may I ask you if you are prepared to accept the reduction he has mentioned and withdraw your motion? You need not then speak on it.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): No, Sir.

PRESIDENT: Very well.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): The trump argument on this side, therefore, is that when this system was introduced in the above taluks four years ago, not a single man was appointed there, and I shall just refer to what Mr. Van Ross has said in the first session of this Council in July, 1922.

"The reason for centralising work in my office is that my office has to attend to a great deal of work connected with many taluks where the independent shop system has not been introduced. Wherever that system has been introduced the work has been reduced."

On the face of this statement I cannot understand how he has been bold enough to ask this House for the present grant. The independent shop system was introduced into the areas where the same system in regard to the vend of toddy was introduced about ten years ago. These Ranges have the usual staff of Inspectors, Sub-Inspectors, Petty Officers and peons like other Ranges. The Acting Excise Commissioner will come forward with the stock argument that because these taluks border the Cochin frontier there is much scope for malpractices and also as there is a large number of trees to mark, and Shertallai is a wide area, the additional staff is necessary. There is quite a little army of men posted on our frontiers to prevent smuggling and other malpractices and a large range staff is provided in these taluks as the scope for malpractices, illicit distillation, possession of arrack and toddy and other grave abkari crimes are greater in taluk vend areas than in the areas under the independent shop system. Tree-marking and collection of *kist*, therefore, alone remain as the ostensible reasons for an extra staff. But as stated before I do not think any extra staff was asked for or sanctioned when the new system was introduced four years ago in the taluks of Muvattupuzha and Todupuzha. No explanation was given. There was collection of *kist* from individual shops and there was the additional work of tree-marking in those two taluks also. A great deal is tried to be made out on the work of collection of *kists* when asking for extra grant. The only work in connection with the collection is the issuing of chalans by the Range Inspector. The rules require that the shop-keepers have to remit the money direct to the treasury, and produce the receipt to the Inspector as a token of the *kist* being paid. It

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is most irregular for the Range Officer or any of his subordinates to collect shop rentals direct from renters as it affords scope for a great deal of malpractices. I know this vicious practice is going on in the Department and the sooner it is put a stop to the better for all concerned. The important ranges of Veluttulli, Nerekadavu, Perumbalam, Puttotta, Vadayar, Todupuzha, Mamala, Vallam and Varappuzha which were under Inspectors have now been placed under Sub-Inspectors. The whole trouble is now due to the topsy-turvy system of the so-called reorganisation of two years ago. As I said, we have been travelling in a vicious circle. If the old arrangement of having each range under an Inspector with party Petty Officers and peons under him had continued the present grant would never have been brought before this House.

If therefore there is any difficulty at all, the only way out of it is to go back to the old system and put the ranges which exist, under Inspectors and Petty Officers and peons and do away with the Sub-Inspectors. This arrangement will, I am sure, bring about a great saving to the Government instead of increasing the expenditure. This grant made on the top of the loss of about five lakhs of rupees brought about by the delay of four long years in introducing the independent shop system in these taluks is adding insult to injury and comes with a bad grace at the present crisis. I fully expected that this would be the first cut the Financial Secretary would have made in connection with the altered situation brought about by the floods. I hope this House including Mr. Karayalar will vote *en bloc* on this motion.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencottah*) : Will Mr. Hoogewerf be pleased to tell me what kinds of trees are tapped for toddy in Muvattupuzha and Todupuzha ?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*) : *Chundappana*. That makes the work much easier.

MR. S SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencottah*): What kind of trees are tapped at Shertallai and Vaikam ?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*) : Cocoanut trees.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencottah*): Is the yield of forty cocoanut trees equal to that of one *Chundappana* ?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*) : I did not say 40, but I said 10 or 15. I cannot understand the argument at all.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*) : I move that the question be now put.

The motion for closure was carried.

MR. K. GOVINDA PILLAI (*Ag. Excise Commissioner*) : I have nothing more to add. If my friends want something to be reduced,

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[President.]

I will reduce Rs. 2,700 or Rs. 225 per mensem. I am willing to clear any doubt since I have materials ready. The calculation has to be made for eleven months and hence the amount to be reduced is Rs 2,475, and not Rs. 2,700.

PRESIDENT: Inasmuch as Mr. Hoogewerf is not willing to withdraw this motion I have to put it to the vote of the House.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I did not catch you. Will the member do away with the Sub-Inspectors ?

PRESIDENT: That is not the motion before the House. The motion is to reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,63,664 under establishment by Rs. 14,630.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): If Rs. 2,500 be reduced I shall accept it and withdraw the motion.

PRESIDENT: The motion is withdrawn on the understanding that the allotment will be reduced by Rs. 2,475.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motions 81 to 100.

The following motions being identical were deemed to have been withdrawn:—

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI:

81. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,63,664 under establishment by Rs. 14,630. (Provision for the appointment of an additional staff in connection with the introduction of the independent shop system in the northern taluks.)

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI:

82. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,63,664 under establishment by Rs. 14,630.

The time for the demand having expired, the following motions lapsed:—

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI:

83. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,63,664 under establishment by Rs. 47,700.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF:

84. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,63,664 under establishment by Rs. 26,580. (Pay of Sub-Inspectors.)

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI:

85. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,63,664 under establishment by Rs. 26,580.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI:

86. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,63,664 under establishment by Rs. 26,580. (Abolition of Sub-Inspectors).

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI:

87. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,63,664 under establishment by Rs. 3,240.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI:

88. To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,836 for the Reserve Petty Officers and Peons.

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MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

89. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,000 for land acquisition charges by Rs. 1,000

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR:

90. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,35,000 for Ranges by Rs. 15,000.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF:

91. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 3,29,445 under Excise by Rs. 100.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR:

92. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 3,29,445 under Excise by Rs. 100.

MR. N. KUMARAN:

93. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 3,29,445 under Excise by Rs. 100.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR:

94. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 3,29,445 under Excise by Rs. 100.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN:

95. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 3,29,445 under Excise by Rs. 100.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI:

96. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 76,300 for Customs by Rs. 418.
(Pay of 4 peons for strengthening the staff of Arukutty Chowkey.)

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI:

97. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 76,300 for Customs by Rs. 828.
(Temporary staff of 6 Petty Officers.)

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI:

98. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 76,300 under Customs by Rs. 100.

MR. N. KUMARAN:

99. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 76,300 under Customs by Rs. 100.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF:

100. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 5·05 lakhs for the Excise Department under Demand III by Rs. 100.
(To draw attention to the necessity of reducing Excise Divisions.)

PRESIDENT: I shall now put Demand III—Excise Department—to the vote of the House. The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs. 5·05 lakhs *minus* Rs. 2,475, under Demand III, be granted.

The grant was made.

The Council adjourned at 5-20 P. M. to meet at 11-30 the next morning.

S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

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